

VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK

1924-25.

A. M. LAUGHTON,

GOVERNMENT STATIST.

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Victorian Year-Book

1924-25

By

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GOVERNMENT STATIST

FORTY-FIFTH ISSUE.

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P R E F A C E

THIS is the forty-fifth issue of the *Victorian Year-Book*.

The main object of the work is to show the progress made by the State during the year under review, and with this end the particulars appertaining to that year are compared with those relating to previous years. An endeavour is made to present such information as will assist legislators, publicists, and others in forming an opinion in regard to the most suitable methods to be adopted in the future in developing the natural resources of the State and promoting the welfare of the people.

The first part shows the progress of the State since the early days of settlement, and contains a description of the Constitution, as well as an epitome of Acts passed during 1924 by the State Parliament, lists of members of Parliament, articles on the Geology and Flora of the State, &c. Parts II., III., V., VI., and IX. deal with the wealth and progress of the community, as indicated by the growth of population, and by increases in bank deposits, in amounts assured with life offices, in volume of trade, &c., and details are given of the revenue and expenditure of the Government, and of municipalities. Parts IV., VII., and VIII. contain statistics relating to births, marriages and deaths, crime, education, charitable institutions, and other cognate subjects. In Part X. a detailed account is given of the agricultural, mineral, manufacturing, and other productions of the State. The various parts were issued as soon as completed. The information in all parts has been brought up to the latest possible date, on many subjects to the middle of the year 1925, and in a few instances to a later date.

In part Vital Statistics information is given in regard to the seasonal prevalence of diseases (in months) in Victoria during the quinquennial period 1920-24. In the appendix will be found a table showing the number of employees and the amounts paid in salaries and wages

by the State Government, Federal Government in the State of Victoria, Municipalities, and certain corporate bodies and institutions in 1924-25 or the latest available year.

The statistics which appear in part Production include a series of tables showing, according to size of holdings, the land occupied in the State in March, 1925, and the cultivation and live stock thereon.

I have to thank the heads of Government Departments and the various experts who have supplied information and in other ways assisted in the preparation of this book. I also take this opportunity of thanking the members of my staff for their hearty co-operation and for the valuable assistance received from them. Special thanks are due to Mr. J. B. Hourigan (Assistant Government Statist) for supervising the preparation of the last three parts during my absence.

The figures and other material in each part of the book have been carefully examined and checked. If, however, any errors be detected, I shall be pleased to receive information as to their nature and position.

A. M. LAUGHTON,
Government Statist.

Office of the Government Statist,
Melbourne, 29th March, 1926.

Victorian Year-Book, 1924-25.

INTRODUCTION.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION, AREA, AND CLIMATE.

**Area of
Victoria.**

Victoria is situated at the south-eastern extremity of the Australian continent, of which it occupies about a thirty-fourth part, and it contains about 87,884 square miles, or 56,245,760 acres. It is bounded on the north and north-east by New South Wales, from which it is separated by the River Murray, and by a straight line running in a south-easterly direction from a place near the head-waters of that stream, called The Springs, on Forest Hill, to Cape Howe. On the west it is bounded by South Australia, the dividing line being about 242 geographical miles in length, approximating to the position of the 141st meridian of east longitude, and extending from the River Murray to the sea. On the south and south-east its shores are washed by the Southern Ocean, Bass Strait, and the Pacific Ocean. It lies between the 34th and 39th parallels of south latitude and the 141st and 150th meridians of east longitude. Its extreme length from east to west is about 420, its greatest breadth about 250, and its extent of coast-line nearly 600 geographical miles. Great Britain, exclusive of the islands in the British Seas, contains 88,756 square miles, and is therefore slightly larger than Victoria.

The southernmost point in Victoria, and in the whole of the Australian continent, is Wilson's Promontory, which lies in latitude 39 deg. 8 min. S., longitude 146 deg. 26 min. E.; the northernmost point is the place where the western boundary of the State meets the Murray, latitude 34 deg. 2 min. S., longitude 140 deg. 58 min. E.; the point furthest east is Cape Howe, situated in latitude 37 deg. 31 min. S., longitude 149 deg. 59 min. E.; the most westerly point is the line of the whole western frontier, which, according to the latest correction, lies upon the meridian 140 deg. 58 min. E., and extends from latitude 34 deg. 2 min. S. to latitude 38 deg. 4 min. S., a distance of 242 geographical miles.

Climate.

From its geographical position, Victoria enjoys a climate more suitable to the European constitution than any other State upon the Continent of Australia. In the sixty-nine years ended with 1924 the maximum temperature in the shade recorded at the Melbourne Observatory and the Weather Bureau was 111·2 deg. Fahr., on the 14th January, 1862; the minimum was 27 deg., on the 21st July, 1869; and the mean was 58·4 deg. Upon the average, on only four days during the year does the thermometer rise above 100 deg. in the shade, and on 19·5 days the temperature reaches 90 deg. or over; generally, on about two nights during the year it falls below freezing point. Sultry nights are of rare occurrence. It is only

occasionally that a high minimum is recorded. The minimum reading approximates to 70 deg. on an average on only two nights in any one year. The maximum temperature in the sun ever recorded (*i.e.*, since 1859) was 178.5 deg., on the 14th January, 1862. The mean atmospheric pressure noted, first at the Observatory 91 feet above the sea level, and later at the Weather Bureau 115 feet above sea level, was, during the sixty-seven years ended with 1924, 30.012 inches; the average number of days on which rain fell each year was 137, and the average yearly rainfall was 25.78 inches. The mean relative humidity of the atmosphere is 68 per cent.; on very warm days it is often 12 per cent., and it has been as low as 2 per cent. The severity of the heat is not felt so much as it would be if there were a relatively high wet bulb, as the temperature by such bulb seldom exceeds 75 deg. The average number of hours of sunshine daily is 6.2, and fogs occur, on an average, on only 19 days in the year.

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS, RIVERS AND LAKES.

Mountains and Hills.

The highest mountain in Victoria is Mount Bogong,* situated in the county of the same name, 6,509 feet above the sea-level; the next highest peaks are—Mount Feathertop, 6,306 feet; Mount Nelson, 6,170 feet; Mount Fainter, 6,160 feet; Mount Hotham, 6,100 feet; Mount McKay, 6,030 feet; and Mount Cope, 6,027 feet; all situated in the same county; also the Cobboras, 6,030 feet, situated between the counties of Benambra and Tambo. These, so far as is known, are the only peaks which exceed 6,000 feet in height; but, according to a list which appears in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, there are 39 peaks between 5,000 and 6,000 feet high, and 40 between 4,000 and 5,000 feet high; it is known, moreover, that there are many peaks rising to upwards of 4,000 feet above the level of the sea whose actual heights have not yet been determined.

Rivers.

With the exception of the Yarra, on the banks of which the metropolis is situated; the Murray; the Goulburn, which empties itself into the Murray about eight miles to the eastward of Echuca; and the La Trobe and the Mitchell, with, perhaps, a few other of the Gippsland streams, the rivers of Victoria are not navigable except by boats. They, however, drain the watershed of large areas of country, and many of the streams are used as feeders to permanent reservoirs for irrigation and water supply purposes. The Murray, which forms the northern boundary of the State, is the largest river in Australia. Its total length is 1,520 miles, for 1,200 of which it flows along the Victorian border. Several of the rivers in the north-western portion of the State have no outlet, but are gradually lost in the absorbent tertiary flat country through which they pass.

* The highest mountain on the Australian Continent is Mount Kosciusko, in New South Wales, one peak of which is 7,328 feet high.

Lakes. Victoria contains numerous salt and fresh-water lakes and lagoons; but many of these are nothing more than swamps during dry seasons. Some of them are craters of extinct volcanoes. Lake Corangamite, the largest inland lake in Victoria, covers 90 square miles, and is quite salt, notwithstanding that it receives the flood waters of several fresh-water streams. It has no visible outlet. Lake Colac, only a few miles distant from Lake Corangamite, is a beautiful sheet of water, $10\frac{1}{2}$ square miles in extent, and quite fresh. Lake Burrumbeet is also a fine sheet of fresh water, embracing 8 square miles. The Gippsland lakes—Victoria, King, and Reeve—are situated close to the coast, and are separated from the sea by only a narrow belt of sand. Lake Wellington, the largest of the Gippsland lakes, lies to the westward of Lakes Victoria and King, and is united to the first-named by a narrow channel. South-east of Geelong is Lake Connewarre, which is connected with the sea at Point Flinders.

A list of mountains and hills, rivers and lakes in Victoria appears in the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1915–16. This was revised by the late Surveyor-General, Mr. A. B. Lang, and contains information in regard to heights, lengths, and areas respectively.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY OF VICTORIA.

By W. Baragwanath, Esq., Director of Victorian Geological Survey.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

Roughly triangular in outline, with the 141st meridian for a base and Cape Howe for the apex, and the sides formed on the north by the Murray River and on the south by the waters of the Southern Ocean, the State of Victoria occupies the most southerly portion of the Continent of Australia. Its area is approximately 88,000 square miles, and presents a diversity of topographical and geological features, which compares favorably with that of the larger States.

Medially dividing the State in an east-west direction is the main watershed which separates the streams flowing north to the Murray from those flowing south towards the ocean. A north and south meridian line from Melbourne at the head of Port Phillip Bay reaches the Murray River near Echuca at the narrowest part of the State, which it subdivides into two areas differing widely in physiographical as well as geological features. Eastwards of this line the area of greatest mean altitude occurs with a well-marked "divide" or watershed line, while westwards the mean elevation is considerably lower and the water-partings often ill-defined, especially where they occupy plateau-like areas. The Lower Ordovician strata, containing the principal gold-fields of the State, occupy three-fourths of the area of exposed rocks westwards of the meridian of Melbourne; eastwards similar strata are only known at a few small and isolated localities.

The older volcanic rocks of early tertiary age are more developed in the eastern part of the State, and the underlying and overlying lignitic beds which form extensive deposits eastward of Melbourne are little represented in the western half of the State. The newer volcanic rocks, while conspicuous in the western portion of the State, are but little in evidence in the eastern part.

The main physiographical features are—

- (1) Central highlands—
 - (a) The eastern highlands ;
 - (b) The western uplands.
- (2) Southern highlands—
 - (a) The South Gippsland ranges ;
 - (b) The Otway ranges.
- (3) Great Valley—
 - (a) The Gippsland Valley ;
 - (b) The Corangamite Valley.
- (4) Murray Valley—

North-western plains and the Mallee.

The central highlands form the main divide, and the southern highlands are parallel to and 50 to 100 miles distant from it. Between these parallel ridges is the great valley of Victoria ; it extends westward from the Gippsland Lakes, and is, with the exception of a volcanic barrier near Warragul separating the waters of the Carrum and Moe Swamps, traceable to Port Phillip Bay. Westward of Port Phillip Bay the extension of this valley, filled in part with Newer Volcanic rocks and recent sediments, embraces Lake Corangamite, the largest in the State, and numerous small lakes. The northern edge of the great valley passes on south of the Grampians and the Sierra Range to the western boundary of the State.

On the northern side of the main watershed line, the southern edge of an extensive plain, embracing the whole of the north-western portion of the State, leaves the Murray River about 60 miles eastward of the meridian of Melbourne, and follows a general south-westerly course towards the western boundary of the State to a point about 90 miles from the coast.

The Gippsland Valley ranges from 50 to 450 feet, the Corangamite Valley from 300 to 450 feet, and the Mallee Plains from 200 to 450 feet ; but, though all three are at about the same level, they differ considerably in geological features. The Gippsland Valley consists of recent deposits of fluvial, lacustrine, or estuarine origin ; the Corangamite basin, almost entirely of lava flows with depressions along the margins of or between the coalescing lava streams and the Mallee Plains of sandy ridges of fluvial or wind-blown origin.

The highlands of the eastern portion of the State are mainly sedimentary and igneous rocks of Ordovician, Silurian, and Devonian age, now forming "razor-back" ridges, at times 2,000 feet above the

neighbouring rivers. The main river valleys are of considerable width, and extend to within a comparatively short distance of the main divide. Following the north and south course of the streams, parallel ridges, due to a combination of folding, faulting, igneous intrusion, and unequal weathering, are well developed.

Evidence of peneplanation at several altitudes is pronounced. Plateaux are of small extent, and owe their preservation to a covering of harder rocks, such as the Dargo High Plains, or to areas where the catchment for denudation is relatively small, as at the Baw Baw Plateau and the Snowy Plains, between the Wonnangatta and the Macallister rivers.

The general altitude of the eastern highlands ranges from 4,000 feet to over 6,000 feet, prominent peaks being Bogong (6,509 feet), Feathertop (6,306 feet), and Hotham (6,100 feet). The Mount Baw Baw granite area, the highest isolated plateau south of the main divide, is 30 square miles in area, and has a mean altitude of 4,500 feet, its highest point being 5,130 feet. The Snowy Plains, consisting of Upper Devonian or Carboniferous flat-bedded rocks, has a general altitude of over 4,000 feet, and connects Mount Wellington to the main divide.

Along the main divide, in the eastern part of the State, several low gaps or "saddles" occur, and of these the Omeo gap south-east of Omeo (elevation 2,400 feet); east of Mount Selma between the heads of the Goulburn and Barkly Rivers (elevation 3,100 feet); east of Mount Matlock between the Red Jacket Creek and the Goulburn (elevation 3,500 feet); and the Narbethong saddle between the Acheron and Watts River (elevation 1,500 feet), are the most important.

The western uplands show the same pronounced meridional arrangement of branch spurs, but, with the exception of the Grampians area, the great difference of altitude between the rivers and the spurs does not exist as in the eastern part of the State. The rocks are chiefly of Older Palæozoic age, in part metamorphosed, and occasional Newer volcanic cappings occurring as defined hills and broad plateaux. On the main divide "saddles" occur at relatively low altitudes. The saddle near Kilmore, through which the Melbourne-Sydney railway line passes, is 1,115 feet above sea, and north-west of Ballarat the divide has an altitude of 1,500 feet. Between these two points the watershed line attains an altitude of 3,000 feet. At 5 miles north of Buangor, the divide between the head waters of the Wimmera and the Flery Creek, a tributary of the Hopkins, has an altitude of 1,200 feet; eastward and westward of this saddle an altitude of 3,150 feet is attained. Westward of Ararat, on the eastern edge of the Grampians which attain an altitude of nearly 4,000 feet, the watershed between the heads of the western branch of the Hopkins and the Mount William Creek is only 950 feet above sea. West of Mount William, the watershed between Fyan's Creek and the head of the Wannon, the altitude is under 1,400 feet, while further westwards in the Victoria Valley the divide between

the Glenelg and Wimmera rivers is 700 feet above sea. Further west the Black Range rises to over 1,000 feet, and beyond this no watershed is recognized, and the land consists of a low-lying area occupied by numerous lakes with no river system till the boundary of South Australia is reached.

The South Gippsland and the Otway Ranges are composed of rocks of Mesozoic age, and the watersheds show no defined or regular arrangement, steep slopes, narrow ridges, and V-shaped valleys prevailing. In the former area, which comprises two nearly-parallel ridges, an altitude of 1,500 feet is reached along the northern edge, where fault action is evident, within 3 miles of the Gippsland Valley. A general altitude of nearly 2,000 feet is maintained for a length of 30 miles along the main crests of this range. In the latter area similar conditions prevail; there is no regular stream system, and a coastal range 10 to 15 miles from and parallel to the sea-shore shows steep slopes and elevations of nearly 2,000 feet.

Wilson's Promontory, an isolated granite massif with peaks of 2,400 feet, forms the most southerly point of the State. It is connected to the mainland by sand-dunes slightly above sea-level. Between Wilson's Promontory and Tasmania is a submerged ridge only 200 feet below sea-level.

The Victorian lakes have been formed by (1) faulting or crust movements; (2) damming of watercourses by lava flows or the coalescing of lava streams; and (3) marine action. Lake Omeo and Lake Karng, near Mount Wellington, fall outside this category; the origin of the former is uncertain, but the latter has been ascribed to a landslip blocking a mountain stream.

Included within the lakes due to faulting is the typical crater lake of Tower Hill, near Koroit, and many of the Western District lakes appear to occupy sunken areas on the lava flows.

Lakes Burrumbeet, Corangamite, and others were formed by coalescing lava flows.

By tidal action a barrier of sand was thrown up, behind which the Gippsland Lakes developed; they were originally larger, but siltation by river-borne material is in progress. Lakes now infilled occur as swamps scattered over the State, and were revealed in numerous places during the working of the alluvial leads or buried river systems.

GEOLOGICAL HISTORY.

The oldest fossiliferous strata comprise a series of volcanic tuffs and contemporaneous sediments. These are supposed to have been folded to form troughs, in which thousands of feet in thickness of Ordovician and Silurian strata were deposited. The occasional conglomerates and grit beds represent fluctuations of the conditions of deposition; volcanic tuffs occur in the Silurian beds, and at the close of this period the intrusion of granitic rocks, contemporaneous with a general meridional series of main folds, took place.

A lengthy period of denudation followed; the exposed outcrops were worn to a general level prior to the extensive volcanic outpourings of the Devonian period, represented by the Snowy River porphyries in the valley of the Snowy and Macallister, which appear to have occurred in valleys or depressed areas, and by the dacites of Dandenong and Macedon. That part of the surface which, prior to the volcanic activity, was a land area, is seen in the north-eastern portion of the State, where a defined river bed occurs beneath a layer of porphyry.

Following the porphyry and dacite outpourings, layers of conglomerate, often hundreds of feet in thickness, were accumulated. No direct evidence of glacial origin of these is yet available, but this has been suggested. Later deposits of limestone in shallow seas took place, and these were followed by alternating layers of conglomerate, sandstones, and shales, and in part volcanic flows (melaphyres) in the eastern part of the State, while sandstones and shales alone were deposited to form the present Grampian Range.

There is evidence of warping and faulting subsequent to deposition. The folding was on broad lines, the Grampian-Dundas beds forming portion of a broad syncline, while the Avon River-Mansfield series has a general northerly dip; the fossils in the deeper beds of the series as exposed on the Avon River and Iguana Creek have a Devonian aspect, while those of the upper beds near Mansfield have a Carboniferous aspect. The Grampian sandstones are of Carboniferous age.

Climatic changes followed the close of this period, and glacial conglomerates, sandstone, pebbly mudstone, and tillite of Permo-Carboniferous age were deposited. More genial conditions intervened with several successive glacial periods in the accumulation of a few hundred feet of strata, which probably covered much of the western portion of the State. Through subsequent denudation they now only exist in scattered areas, and as remnants faulted against older rocks. These fault movements provided general depressions, in which the thousands of feet of fresh-water felspathic sandstones and mudstones with coal seams accumulated, now forming the Jurassic coal measures of Gippsland, Otway, Casterton, and probably near Wangaratta.

Extensive faulting in the early part of the Tertiary period resulted in a partial elevation of the Jurassic series and a depression of an area to the north and south of it.

At this period portion of the central highlands was in all probability a land surface, and the deep leads of Dargo High Plains were probably contemporaneous with the period of early Tertiary faulting. The early Tertiary period was marked by the deposition of marine Oligocene beds in the western part of the State, and by the accumulation of brown coal beds and marine strata at Altona, and the sub-basaltic lignites in parts of Gippsland.

Volcanic action (the Older Volcanic of the geological survey) took place during this period, as is indicated by the alternating marine beds and basalt flows near Maude.

Elevation and depression of the surface, subsequent to the Older Volcanic period, has resulted in the marine beds being elevated to a considerable altitude in some places, and in others depressed to a depth only ascertainable by boring. In Gippsland the Older Volcanic rocks, although originally resting on a gentle sloping surface, are now seen to be inclined almost vertically in the vicinity of fault lines, and within short distances they have been found at a depth of several hundreds of feet below the level of the original outcrop.

In these depressions, sand, clay, and extensive lignite deposits accumulated in Gippsland and elsewhere. In the Western District the newer volcanic outpourings took place and sealed up the old river systems which contained the alluvial gold deposits.

Faulting, subsequent to the deposition of the lignitic beds and the newer volcanic flows, is revealed by bore sections and mine workings, but the general configuration of the surface has been chiefly affected by the accumulation or removal of superficial deposits.

Founded on sound lines by Dr. A. R. C. Selwyn in 1856, the Victorian Geological Survey has carried out mapping and investigations continuously, except for a few months some 50 years ago. The main geological features of the State have now been mapped out and some areas examined in detail, much assistance having been given by geologists and scientific workers outside the survey. Much still remains to be done, and may complex problems, which depend upon a detailing examination both in the field and in the laboratory, await solution.

The stratigraphical succession of the geological formations is—

Cambrian.—An area of regionally metamorphosed rocks, consisting of quartzites, chloritic, talcose, and micaceous schists, and gneisses, in the valley of the Glenelg and Wannon rivers may be of this age or older, but there is no definite evidence available. At Heathcote a series of sedimentary and igneous rocks occur, and much controversy has arisen as to the age and stratigraphical relation of this Heathcoteian series. Certain trilobite-bearing beds have been considered Upper Cambrian, and associated with these beds are cherts and diabases, the latter an altered volcanic tuff, not an intrusive rock. The cherts also are more or less silicified tuffs as evidenced by their contained radiolaria. Interstratified with the cherts there are shales containing graptolites of Lower Ordovician aspect.

At Mansfield an acutely-folded series of sandstones, slates, cherts, and phosphate beds have yielded fossils, now proved to be of Upper Cambrian age by Mr. F. Chapman; brachiopods (*Salterella*), crustaceans, and radiolaria occur in the beds. Graptolites of Lower Ordovician type occur with the crustaceans and *Salterella*.

Near Mount Wellington certain beds in the vicinity of the serpentine area have been identified as Upper Cambrian. Similar lithological associations exist as at Heathcote and near Mansfield. The serpentine of this area is referable to pre-Upper Ordovician age, and may be Cambrian.

Scattered throughout the State there are areas of cherts and diabases regarded on lithological evidence as of similar age, but fossil evidence has not yet been obtained in support of this contention.

In the Howqua Valley, cherts, jaspers, and diabases are associated with Upper Ordovician strata.

From the Heathcotean rocks the alluvial gold of McIvor Creek had its origin. Magnesite, steatite, copper, and manganese occur at Heathcote; corundum, limestone, and chrome iron at Mount Wellington and Heathcote; phosphates of aluminium and calcium near Mansfield and in the Howqua Valley.

Ordovician.—The rocks of this series are chiefly grits, sandstones, and slates. Conglomerates are rare, and limestone occurs in beds only a few inches in thickness. The beds have been intensely folded and in places metamorphosed. Two types of metamorphism, regional and contact, are evident. The former type is widespread. Much of the north-eastern portion of the State is occupied by rocks of this age and character, comprising every gradation from micaceous schists to gneiss and gneissose granite.

At Stawell the metamorphic strata are gneissose, chloritic and graphitic schists, hornblendic gneiss, quartzite, and occasionally thin beds of marble.

The latter type is local, and is confined to areas surrounding intrusive igneous masses.

On fossil evidence the Ordovician strata are subdivided into a lower and an upper series. The Lower Ordovician rocks are confined, with the exception of areas on the Mornington Peninsula, Boolarra, Knockwood, and Loyola, near Mansfield, to the area west of the meridian of Melbourne. These beds have been subdivided into four zones characterized by typical fossils, and are named after the type localities where they were first examined, e.g., Lancefield, Bendigo, Castlemaine, and Darriwill. The chief gold-fields in the western portion of the State occur in the three lower zones. Detailed palaeontological surveys by R. A. Keble have resulted in the Bendigo and Castlemaine zones being divided into sub-zones at Bendigo and in part also at Daylesford.

The Lancefield zone is characterized by gold occurrence of the Indicator class, a feature present at Dunolly, Tarnagulla, Inglewood, Maryborough, Elaine, and, though fossil evidence is wanting, probably at Ballarat.

The Bendigo zone has quartz lodes either bedded as saddle formations or occurring as fissure lodes; these are well developed on the Bendigo, Spring Gully, Castlemaine, Daylesford, and Steiglitz gold-fields. The Bendigo zone has also been identified at Mornington.

The Castlemaine zone, more especially in its lower portions, is noted for rich spurry quartz formations, from which the rich alluvial gold of the Chewton and Fryerstown gold-fields was derived.

The Darriwill zone has not yet been proved in the auriferous areas of the State, but to the east of Bendigo this zone has recently been noted in close proximity to auriferous country.

The Upper Ordovician series occur as meridional belts in the eastern part of the State, outcropping on anticlinal domes, such as exist at Mount Matlock; on the Black River, 12 miles east of Wood's Point; at Phosphate Hill, near Mansfield, resting on Upper Cambrian; Doldrook River, Mount Wellington; Sandy Creek, west of Bullumwaal; the Upper Murray, through the county of Benambra; and Nowa Nowa.

An area of Upper Ordovician extends through the central portion of Mornington Peninsula and its correlation with the Lower Ordovician beds which occur on a main fold to the westward has been determined. At Bald Hills, westward of Waratah, an area of Upper Ordovician occurs.

Besides the rich quartz and alluvial gold the Ordovician strata contains silver, lead, copper, iron, manganese, wolfram, scheelite, bismuth, antimony, lodes of fluorspar, and veins of turquoise.

Silurian.—The rocks of this formation are conglomerate, breccia, grits, quartzites, phyllites, schists, slates, and shales, intercalated limestone and marble, and occasionally volcanic tuff. Like the Ordovician the beds are acutely folded and metamorphosed where intruded by igneous masses. Structurally, the Silurian beds form a large arc with a centre near Port Phillip. This is well shown by tracing the fossiliferous beds at Waratah Bay, strike N. 30° E., through Turton's Creek. Westward of Walhalla similar strata strike N. and S. Further north near Wood's Point the strike is west of north and continues so to the granite of the Strathbogie Ranges. Near Benalla the strike is north-westerly, but at Rushworth the continuation of the arc shows with an east and west strike, and Silurian fossils are well represented in this vicinity. On fossil evidence the Silurian beds are divided into three series—the Melbournian, Yeringian, and Tanjilian; the last named may require revision of evidence. These rocks cover a large part of central eastern Victoria. The gold-fields of Rushworth, Whroo, Walhalla, Wood's Point, Foster, Tanjil, Warrandyte, and Reedy Creek are in Silurian rocks. Gold-antimony ores occur at Costerfield, Ringwood, and Thornton; limestone at Lilydale, Cooper's Creek, Waratah, and Howe's Creek, near Mansfield; and phosphate of lime at Howe's Creek. Copper and small quantities of manganese, nickel, cobalt, and platinum are recorded from dykes intrusive into this series.

Devonian.—Acutely-folded sedimentary strata of Middle Devonian age occur in the vicinity of Taberraberra, west of Bullumwaal, and are apparently conformable to the underlying Silurian and Upper Ordovician. This area has recently been examined and will afford an interesting section showing the relationship.

Towards the close of the Devonian period extensive volcanic accumulations, such as tuffs, conglomerates, lavas, and porphyry masses were formed in the Snowy River and Macallister-Wonnangatta valleys, and apparently contemporaneous with them extensive limestone beds

were deposited. As these and later beds have not been subjected to the intense folding of the pre-existing formations in which the granites and granodiorites occur, the latter intrusions are classed as of Devonian age. In the Grampians area certain granite intrusions have been assigned to a later period.

Excepting a small rich gold occurrence near Briagolong, the Devonian strata have not proved gold-bearing. Silver, lead, copper, manganese, iron, baryta, felspar, and building stones, such as marble, freestone, porphyry, and granite are the chief economic products.

Carboniferous.—The massive sandstones, with occasional shales, forming the Mount William, Sierra, and Dundas ranges in the west, and the purplish-red sandstones, mudstones, conglomerates, and impure limestones at Mansfield and near Whitfield are Lower Carboniferous. On the Avon River the red and yellow sandstones containing the fossil *Lepidodendron* probably belong to this series, although the underlying beds at Iguana Creek have a flora with a Devonian aspect. Both the Mount Wellington and the Grampians areas present a remarkable variety of scenery—canyons, bluffs, and gorges often several hundred feet deep.

In the Grampians a granodiorite-porphyrific intrusion in the Carboniferous sandstones is recorded, while the granitic mass of Mount Hump (Gippsland) is apparently older than the Avon River sandstones.

The Carboniferous formation only provides building stone, some of the freestone being of good quality.

Permo-Carboniferous.—Glacial conglomerate, pebbly mudstone, and tillite occur near Bacchus Marsh, in the valley of the Werribee, at Greendale, Wild Duck Creek (near Heathcote), near Kyneton, Coleraine, Carisbrook, Pitfield, Poseidon, Wangaratta, and other localities in the north-east district, and are apparently scattered remnants of glaciation more or less directly connected. Northward of Greendale an area of glacial beds occurs on the northern or upthrow side of the Greendale fault at an elevation considerably above the highest portion of the corresponding formation southward. At Bacchus Marsh several species of the fossil *Gangamopteris* were discovered in shale, intercalated with the glacial conglomerates, and on this evidence the beds have been provisionally classed as of Permo-Carboniferous age; recent observations by Mr. F. Chapman have revealed Triassic fossils in the uppermost beds of the series. In a small outcrop of strata near Yandoit fossils of Triassic age have also been identified.

Jurassic.—A thick bed of conglomerate, glacial in part, forms the base of the Jurassic formations, and is followed by a series of felspathic sandstones, thick beds of mudstones, and thin seams of coal; these occur in South Gippsland, on the Latrobe River, in the Otway Ranges, and the Valley of the Wannon. The black coal seams, though small, furnish portion of the supplies of the State. The coal seams are much faulted and frequently intersected by doleritic dykes. Quartz reefs occur in the Jurassic strata of the Otway district, but so far they have

not proved auriferous. Freestones, dyke stones, useful for road material, shales suitable for tile manufacture, calcite, baryta, and black coal are the chief economic products of the Jurassics.

Lower Tertiary.—Marls and limestones of Oligocene age, containing a representative molluscan fauna outcrop at Mornington and Muddy Creek, Hamilton, and occur at a depth at Altona and Sorrento. At Altona they rest on brown coal, which in turn rests on sands. At Mornington they are either in contact with or in close proximity to the Older Basalt.

Fluviatile deposits underlying the Older Basalt at Berwick contain an abundant fossil flora, including such genera as *Eucalyptus*, *Lomatia*, *Fagus*, &c. In the fluviatile beds, under the Older Basalt at Dargo, *Gingko* is found. The predominant species in the brown coal deposits appears to be a *Cupressinoxylon*, or cypress wood.

Middle Tertiary.—Miocene marls and polyzoal limestone of Miocene age are represented by a considerable thickness of beds at various localities. They outcrop at several places in the western portion of the State, and the main water-bearing beds of the Mallee-Riverina basin are of this age. At Pitfield, during mining operations, fossil fruit were found in fluviatile beds, which seemed to merge into estuarine and ultimately into marine beds, containing molluscan fauna. At Maude and Curlewis there are two flows of basalt with a marine bed between them, and another resting below the lower lava flow. The lower marine bed is regarded by Mr. Chapman as Miocene, and by the late Dr. R. S. Hall and Dr. Pritchard as Eocene. The brown coal phase, which commenced in the Lower Tertiary, probably extends upwards into the Miocene.

Upper Tertiary.—Lower Pliocene shell marls and sands occur at the Gippsland Lakes, on the shores of Port Phillip Bay, at Muddy Creek, Hamilton, and the Mallee. The period is characterized by coarse marine and freshwater sedimentation. In the fossil fauna the remains of some gigantic mammals are found. Upper Pliocene clays, sands and limestones outcrop at the Glenelg and Moorabool rivers, and are known to exist at a depth in the Mallee. The extensive volcanic plains of Western Victoria, comprised of lavas and tuffs, range in age from the Pliocene to within comparatively recent times. Many of the craters are perfect.

Recent.—Loam and sand deposits, dune sands, recent beaches, lake sediments, &c., in process of formation comprise the Recent deposits.

Tertiary deposits have been responsible for a large quantity of the gold found in Victoria, particularly for the large nuggets, which have made Victorian gold-fields famous. Stream tin, a moderate amount of wolfram and monazite, a considerable tonnage of pottery clays, sands for a variety of purposes, building stone, including basalt (much used locally for construction, paving, and macadam), lime, bauxite, iron ore, pigments, paper clays, jarosite, and chalk occur in the Tertiary deposits of the State.

Extensive deposits of brown coal have been proved in the vicinity of Morwell, Traralgon, Rosedale, Hedley, westward of Altona Bay, Lal Lal, and Bambra, and several of these areas are now receiving attention.

FLORA OF VICTORIA.

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INTRODUCTION.

Perhaps no subject in the past has received more exhaustive treatment than the indigenous flora of Victoria. After the work of Dr. Robert Brown on his voyage with Flinders, and of a few other botanists, we had the comprehensive work of our first Government botanist, Baron von Mueller, a unique record of botanical research.

Supplementary contributions have since been published by Messrs. G. Weindorfer, C. A. Topp, M.A., Professor A. J. Ewart, D. Sc., and others, serving further to increase our knowledge, and direct our study of the flora of Victoria, so that in a general consideration of the subject there seems to be little available to add to their work.

CLASSIFICATION.

In the State of Victoria there are 580 genera and 2,053 species of Exogenous and Endogenous plants systematically arranged under the natural orders as adopted by Baron von Mueller.

DICOTYLEDONAE.

Choripetalae hypogynae.

Ranunculaceae	Malvaceae
Dilleniaceae	Sterculiaceae
Magnoliaceae	Tiliaceae
Monimieae	Euphorbiaceae
Lauraceae	Urticaceae
Papaveraceae	Cupuliferae
Cruciferae	Casuarineae
Violaceae	Sapindaceae
Pittosporae	Stackhousieae
Droseraceae	Frankeniaceae
Elatineae	Plumbagineae
Hypericineae	Portulaceae
Polygaleae	Caryophylleae
Tremandreae	Amarantaceae
Rutaceae	Salsolaceae
Zygophyllaceae	Ficoideae
Lineae	Polygonaceae
Geraniaceae	Phytolacceae

DICOTYLEDONAE—continued.

Choripetaleae perigynae.

Leguminosae	Haloragaceae
Rosaceae	Myrtaceae
Saxifrageae	Rhamnaceae
Onagreae	Araliaceae
Salicarieae	Umbelliferae

Sympetaleae perigynae.

Santalaceae	Cucurbitaceae
Proteaceae	Compositae
Thymeleae	Campanulaceae
Rubiaceae	Candollaceae
Caprifoliaceae	Goodeniaceae

Sympetaleae hypogynae.

Gentineae	Scrophularinae
Loganiaceae	Lentibularinae
Plantagineae	Asperifoliae
Primulaceae	Labiatae
Jasmineae	Verbenaceae
Apocynaeae	Myoporinae
Convolvulaceae	Ericaceae
Solanaceae	Epacrideae

Apetaleae gymnospermeae.

Coniferae

MONOCOTYLEDONAE.

Calyceae perigynae.

Orchideae	Hydrocharideae
Irideae	Amaryllideae

Calyceae hypogynae.

Lilliacaeae	Alismaceae
Typhaceae	Xyrideae
Lemnaceae	Junceae
Fluviales	Restiaceae

Acalyceae hypogynae.

Cyperaceae	Gramineae
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ACOTYLEDONEAE.

Acotyledoneae vasculares.

Rhizospermae	Filices.
Lycopodinae	

(1) The first great division of Exogens, the *Choripetalae hypogynae* presents to notice the representatives of 36 natural families, and, although not comprising very many of the larger trees, it includes many shrubs which are well known to the horticulturist. Perhaps as a family the Rutaceae affords some of the most elegant shrubs in this division of the vegetable kingdom, especially the genera *Correa*, *Boronia*, *Crowea*, *Eriostemon* and *Phebalium*. There are many species of *Eriostemon* but there are few species of *Phebalium* to be met with in gardens, although several of the species are decidedly ornamental. Some of the prettiest shrubs belonging to the rutaceous order are *Boronia pinnata*, *B. anemonifolia*, and many other species of the same genus are abundant in the spring of the year.

The Dilleniaceae comprise several species of *Hibbertia*, but, with the exception of *H. dentata*, with its yellow bright petals, they could hardly be regarded as suitable for horticulturists, owing to the fugacious nature of the petals, which drop off almost as soon as they are gathered. The native Cruciferae are neither numerous nor important; they comprise fourteen genera. Of the Pittosporae there are five genera. *Pittosporum undulatum*—a tall sweet-scented shrub—is well adapted for a shrubbery or as a hedge plant. *P. phillyraeoides*—a graceful tree with seed vessels containing red seeds—occurs generally in the Mallee. *Cheiranthra linearis* is a small shrub with showy blue flowers. The three species of *Billardiera* have a twining habit with pale yellow flowers, and small edible berries. The Salsolaceae embrace 14 genera and 62 species. In many parts of the Mallee, where from the nature of the soil or the dryness of the season, the grasses afford a very inadequate pasture for stock, the salt-bush family takes the place of the grasses, and the species are so numerous that probably no other part of the world can produce a more varied stock of them. The plants best known as salt-bushes are *Rhagodia parabolica* (Mealy Saltbush), *R. hastata* (Saloop Saltbush), *Atriplex leptocarpum* (Slender Fruit Saltbush), *A. limbatum* (Spreading Saltbush), *A. semibaccatum* (Berry Saltbush), *A. angulatum* (Angular Saltbush), *A. nummularium* (Old-man Saltbush), *Kochia villosa* (Silky Bluebush), and *Kochia pyramidata* (Shrubby Bluebush).

Violaceae.—The indigenous plants of the violet family do not bear comparison with the exotic species; but, though destitute of scent, our violets may admit of hybridization, and under cultivation be rendered available for the purpose of the garden. The same would be applicable to our Geraniaceae. *Pelargonium australe* (Austral Stork's Bill), which greatly improves under cultivation, may yield interesting horticultural varieties.

(2) *Choripetalae perigynae*.—This section contains ten families, but the species are much more numerous and contain some of the most useful and important trees of the State. The Leguminosae, comprehending the divisions Mimosae and Papilionaceae, comprise 36 genera and 195 species. The Mimosae, which contain the Acacias,

are esteemed for the beauty and fragrance of their flowers, and also for the tannic properties of their bark. The bark of these plants is astringent, and a great quantity of it is used in tanning, and it is also sometimes employed medicinally as a remedy for dysentery, whilst the wood of *A. melanoxylon* (Blackwood) is much esteemed by cabinet-makers, being hard, dark in colour and finely veined. Few of the division Papilionaceae assume a tree-like appearance, most of them being small shrubs. In the months of September and November the species of *Daviesia*, *Dillwynia*, *Platylobium*, *Bossiaea*, *Swainsona*, *Indigofera*, *Goodia*, *Gompholobium* and *Pultenaea* enliven the bush by the brilliance of their flowers, but the showy appearance is too transient in its character to produce anything more than a temporary effect on the landscape.

The most important order in the State is the Myrtaceae. Nearly all the trees of the forest belong to it and also many beautiful shrubs. Although not containing quite so many species as the Leguminosae, it gives a tone and attraction to the bush on all sides, and, in the spring of the year, not merely the banks of creeks, but the forest itself is ornamented by myrtaceous blossoms. The most spectacular of the Myrtaceae are the various species of *Callistemon*, but the genera *Leptospermum*, *Kunzea*, *Melaleuca*, *Baeckea*, *Calytrix*, *Lhotskya*, *Micromyrtus* and *Thryptomene* present many beauties to the admirer of nature. Amongst the larger trees, two shrubs of *Leptospermum*, and one of *Melaleuca* might be mentioned as affording timber for rough buildings and firewood; but the *Eucalyptus* far surpasses them in importance. Of the genus there are upwards of 80 well-defined species in Victoria, which under the various vernacular names of Messmate, Yellow, Red and White Stringybark, Bloodwood, Silvertop, White Mountain Ash, Woollybutt, Grey Box, &c., afford the principal timber for building material and cabinet-making, &c. Many of the *Eucalypti* are of immense importance, whether considered in regard to the value of their timber, the medicinal properties of their barks and resins, or the essential oil of their leaves, and the huge dimensions and towering height of some species are perhaps unrivalled in the world. Experiments have proved that the volatile oils contained in the leaves are highly valuable, and the wood will yield charcoal, vinegar, tar and non-condensable gases.

(3) The group *Sympetalae perigynae* contains ten families—the Compositae, the most numerous, having 52 genera and 231 species. This order, though not distinguished by any particular beauty, contains many species that are of a dry and coarse texture, and resemble what are popularly termed "Everlasting flowers." It might be easily imagined that such plants can stand a great amount of heat, and that they can exist long after the grasses have perished. To the general observer most of the composites present very little interest, and perhaps a few of them are looked upon as troublesome weeds, but, regarded from a scientific point of view, they throw much light on the character

of the soil where they abound, and also demonstrate their peculiar adaptation to seasons of aridity.

The Proteaceae has ten genera and 54 species indigenous to the State, the most prominent genera being *Conospermum*, *Persoonia*, *Hakea*, *Grevillea*, *Telopea*, *Lomatia*, *Banksia*. The latter genus is named after the distinguished naturalist, Sir Joseph Banks. We have *B. integrifolia*, *B. serrata*, *B. marginata*, *B. collina*, and *B. ornata* indigenous to this State. The first three are trees the wood of which is used for the knees of boats, and the others are ornamental shrubs. The genus *Hakea* is remarkable for its long, thorny leaves, hard woody seed vessel, and winged seeds. There are twelve species indigenous to Victoria, which, although differing in foliage and habit, may be easily recognized by their woody follicles, which after a time split in half and display two black seeds with a long broad wing at one end of them. The order is divided into (1) Numentaceae, or nut producing; and (2) Folliculares, or having a follicle—e.g., a one-valved, one-celled capsule opening lengthwise. Of the first division we have *Conospermum*, *Persoonia* and *Isopogon*; and of the second *Hakea*, *Grevillea*, *Telopea*, and *Banksia*.

The *Sympetaleae hypogynae* embraces sixteen families. The Epacridaceae is, on many accounts, an interesting order, principally, however, because it is almost peculiar to Australia, and occupies the same place here that the heathworts or Ericaceae do in other countries, and they give a tone and character to the flora where they abound. *Epacris impressa*, or "Common Heath," which is so common in some of our scrubs and along the sea coast, has long been a great favorite with the horticulturist. Its crimson and white flowers are very attractive. Some species of *Styphelia* are also very beautiful, as also are those of *Leucopogon* with the bearded segments of their flowers. *Astroloma conostephioides* (Flame Heath), *A. humifusum* (Cranberry Heath), and *Styphelia adscendens* (Golden Heath) are well known as having edible drupes.

Of the Gentianeae two little plants appear in the early part of the summer and spread over cultivated fields, e.g., *Erythraea australis* (Austral-Centaury) and *Sebaea ovata* (Yellow Centaury). They are valuable for the bitter properties they contain, and are often collected for use in rustic pharmacy. The former is the more powerful, and, although not used professionally, is a valuable local medicine.

MONOCOTYLEDONEAE.

Calyceae perigynae.

The herbaceous plants in Victoria most suitable for cultivation belong principally to the families of Orchideae and Liliaceae. Of the Orchids *Dipodium punctatum* (Hyacinth Orchid), *Gastrodia sesamoides* (Potato Orchid), *Thelymitra grandiflora* (Great Sun Orchid), and *Caladenia*

Patersonii (Common Spider Orchid) would be the most likely to arrest the attention of the cultivator ; but many of the smaller species, from the peculiar structure of their flowers, and the rarity of their occurrence demand some notice, especially the crimson and irritable *Caleana major* (Large Duck Orchid), the sweet-scented leaf of *Glossodia major*, the fantastic labellum of *Acianthus caudatus*, and *Calochilus Robertsonii* (Old Man Orchid) the edible bulbs of *Diuris* and the helmet of the diminutive *Corysanthes pruinosa*. The Liliaceous plants, *Dianella laevis* (Smooth Flax Lily) and *Thysanotus tuberosus* (Common Fringe Lily) relieve the eye of the observer by their delicate tints of blue and lilac respectively.

Acalyceae hypogynae.

The Gramineae as a family of plants are the most extensive as well as the most important to mankind. They contain nearly a sixth of the whole vegetable kingdom, cover the globe to a large extent with an almost perpetual freshness of green, and nourish by far the greater number of animals serviceable to the whole human race. There are 136 species of grasses arranged under 49 genera native to Victoria, and they are fairly well distributed over the State. Amongst the most valuable and nutritious grasses, the following occur in Victoria :—Fifteen species of *Panicum*, all of which are splendid fodder grasses ; eight of *Andropogon*, including the famous “ Blue Grass ” and other excellent grasses ; seven of *Deyeuxia*, which include some good pasture grasses ; seven of *Eragrostis*, some of which are remarkable for their drought resisting qualities ; four of *Glyceria*, including the Giant Mountain Grass ; two of *Themeda*, which are colloquially known as Kangaroo and Oat grasses respectively ; two of *Chloris*, including the Windmill or Star Grass ; two of *Diplachne*, one of which thrives well in moist situations ; four of *Poa*, one of which would be of use in the manufacture of paper ; three of *Sporobolus*, one of which would prove serviceable for paper-making. There are several species of the following genera :—*Cynodon* (Couch Grass), *Microlaena* (Weeping Grass), *Pollinia* (Brown Top), *Setaria* (Pigeon Grass), *Pappophorum* (Nigger Head), *Festuca* (Fescue Grass), *Eleusine* (Finger Grass), *Trisetum* (Spiked-Oat Grass), *Eriochloa* (Woolly Grass), *Deschampsia* (Tufted Hair Grass), *Anisopogon* (Oat Spear Grass), *Amphipogon* (Bearded Heads), *Agropyrum* (Common Wheat Grass), *Alopecurus* (Bent Foxtail Grass), *Hierochloa* (Scented Holy Grass), *Dichelachne* (Plume Grass), *Arundo* (Reed Grass), and *Tetrarrhena* (Wire Grass).

UNDESIRABLE GRASSES.

The most objectionable grasses native to Victoria belong to *Stipa elegantissima*, *S. flavescens*, *S. teretifolia*, *S. eremophila*, *S. setacea*, *S. Luehmannii*, *S. aristiglumis*, *S. scabra*. (The *Stipas* are commonly known as Spear Grasses). Another genus is the *Aristida*, comprising

A. arenaria, *A. Behriana*, *A. leptopoda*, *A. vagans*, *A. ramosa*, *A. calycina*, (These Aristidas are known vernacularly as Three-awned Spear Grasses). A very objectionable grass is the False Spinifex (*Triodia irritans*), which is dreaded mostly on account of its sharp-pointed leaves. Although the number of indigenous undesirable grasses in Victoria does not exceed twenty, in some places they cover large areas, and depreciate their stock-carrying capacity.

Acotyledoneae.

Acotyledoneae vasculares.—The Pteridophyta, or Fern Family, contain 37 genera and 75 species indigenous to Victoria. They consist of flowerless plants, furnished with fronds or leaves which bear on the same part of their surface, usually the lower or under one, the spores or seeds by which they are propagated. Although ferns have no flowers, they bear great abundance of seed-like bodies, which are contained in sporangia or spore cases. These cases are generally surrounded by an elastic band or ring, which, when they have reached maturity, bursts by an irregular fissure and the seeds or spores, in the shape of fine dust, are scattered to the winds in countless numbers. Perhaps there is no order of plants which has more attractions for the general observer than that of ferns. The extreme elegance and extraordinary variation of their forms, as well as the facility with which many species can be obtained and dried, tend to make the study of ferns highly interesting. The better known species of tree ferns found in this State are the following, e.g., *Dicksonia antarctica* (Soft Tree Fern), *Cyathea Cunninghamii* (Slender Tree Fern), *C. medullaris* (Black Tree Fern) *Alsophila australis* (Rough Tree Fern), *Todea barbara* (King Fern).

The order has been divided into the following sub-orders, viz:—

- (1) Hymenophyllaceae, (2) Cyatheaceae, (3) Polypodiaceae, (4) Gleicheniaceae, (5) Schizaeaceae, (6) Osmundaceae, (7) Salvinaceae, (8) Marsileaceae, (9) Ophioglossaceae.

NOXIOUS WEEDS.

Owing to the alarming increase and spread in recent years, Victoria is bestirring itself to the necessity of eradicating its many noxious weeds, which are becoming exceedingly dangerous to our pasturage, and all agricultural pursuits. While much has been done thus far to place the farmer in a position to recognise and cope with the danger, the problem grows in seriousness and the present time, when new tracts of country are being made available for settlement, appears to be particularly favourable for urging the need of a systematic and united effort by all engaged in the tilling of the soil, to endeavour in every possible way to eradicate these pests from their holdings.

Their eradication is of paramount interest to all engaged in agrarian pursuits in every part of Victoria, and the fact that many are striving to overcome the pests is manifest from the frequent inquiries made at the National Herbarium, Melbourne, for advice as to their eradication and suppression.

NEW PLANTS RECORDED DURING 1924-1925.

Six introduced plants have been recorded as growing wild for the first time, viz. :—

Bromus rubens L., "Red Brome Grass" (*Gramineae*)—This grass has been introduced from the Mediterranean regions. It has slight fodder value when young, but is practically useless when older. The sharp awns of the flower-head may cause irritation to the gums of stock.

Corydalis capnoides Wahl., "Corydale" (*Papaveraceae*). It is a native of Europe, Asia, and has no known economic value.

Erodium botrys Bert., "Needle Stork's Bill" (*Geraniaceae*). A native of the Mediterranean regions. It has slight fodder value.

Heliotropium supinum L., "Prostrate Heliotrope" (*Borraginaceae*). An introduction from Europe, North Africa and Asia. It is a useless plant, but has no deleterious properties.

Onopordon acaulon L., "Stemless Onopordon" (*Compositae*). A native of the Mediterranean regions, introduced into Victoria, probably from South Australia, where it has been growing for several years. The leaves of this thistle lie flat on the ground, the flowers sessile in the centre of the rosette of leaves. As the plant belongs to the same genus as the proclaimed plant *Onopordon acanthium* "Scotch Thistle," it is quite likely it will spread if not speedily eradicated.

Sieglingia decumbens Bernh., "Heath Grass" (*Gramineae*). A native of Europe, North Africa, and West Asia. This grass has fodder value, and grows on poor soil in England.

NEW RECORD OF NATIVE FLORA.

During the period fifteen species not previously recorded for this State have been added to the list of Victorian flora, viz. :—

Borya nitida Labill., "Shining Borya" (*Liliaceae*); *Eucalyptus agglomerata* F.v.M., "Grey Stringybark"; *E. Dalrympleana* Maiden, "Mountain White Gum"; *E. phellandra* Maiden, "Mountain Peppermint" (*Myrtaceae*); *Pterostylis truncata* Rogers (*Orchideae*).

Ten ferns not previously recorded for Victoria have been added to the list, viz. :—

Adiantum capillaris-veneris L., British Maiden Hair Fern."

Alsophila Cooperi F.v.M., "Cooper's Tree Fern."

Asplenium adiantoides C. Chr., "Maiden Hair Spleenwort."

Blechnum laevigatum Cav., "Smooth Fern."

Blechnum serrulatum Richards, "Saw-leaf Blechnum."

Cyclophorus rupestris C. Chr., "Rock Polypody."

Dryopteris Queenslandica Domin., "Queensland Shield Fern."

Dryopteris tropica Domin., "Tropical Shield Fern."

Gleichenia flabellata R. Br., "Fan Fern."

Polystichum aristatum Presl., "Bristly Shield Fern."

DISTRIBUTION.

Taking the Dividing Range generally as a boundary in regard to the distribution of flora, Mueller apportioned Victoria into five districts, each having distinctive features: The North-west—a dry area with moderate rainfall, including the Mallee, and its xerophytic character linking up the flora with that of similar areas towards South Australia; the South-west, comprising a good deal of country with a surface soil showing the results of volcanic activity, as well as part of the forest area west of Cape Otway; the Southern, including the coastal area of Port Phillip and adjacent plains, and extending from the vicinity of Cape Otway to the western boundary of Gippsland; the North-east, to the Upper Murray, including the alpine regions which link it in some measure with Tasmania and Antarctica in the character of the flora; then, excluding the alpine portion, the definite area of Gippsland in the East with types of vegetation intrusive along the Pacific seaboard from the warmer and more humid northern areas in New South Wales. This division of Victoria has proved useful and convenient, and follows well-defined natural features of the configuration of the State, tending to evolve certain differences in vegetation.

GRAMPIANS FLORA.

Special mention may be made of the Grampians flora, which in variety and beauty of its flowers is exceptionally notable. Probably owing to the Grampians being a residual formation of what was originally a geological measure of great extent, and partly owing to its comparative isolation, which is more marked on account of the ranges being at right angles to the great watershed from the central mountain system, its flora has a character of its own, and some plants are wholly restricted

to its area. Thus among others may be mentioned *Caleana Sullivani* F.v.M. (Spectral Duck Orchid), *Grevillea Williamsoni* F.v.M. (Serra Grevillea), *Bauera sessiliflora* F.v.M. (Showy Bauera), *Pultenaea Benthami* F.v.M. (Grampian Bush-pea), *P. Luehmannii* Maiden (Thready Bush-pea), *P. costata* (Ribbed Bush-pea), *Correa aemula* (Hairy Correa), *Trymalium ramosissimum* J. W. Audas (Broad-leaf Trymalium), *T.D'Altonii* F.v.M. (Narrow-leaf Trymalium), *Hibbertia humifusa* F.v.M. (Mountain Guinea Flower), *Eucalyptus alpina* Lindl. (Grampian Gum), *Halorrhagis meziana* Schindl. (Hairy Raspwort), *Leucopogon thymifolius* Lindl. (Thyme Beard Heath), *Brachyloma depressum* Bth. (Spreading Heath), *Prostanthera debilis* F.v.M. (Slender Mint Bush), *Stylidium soboliferum* F.v.M. (Bristly Trigger Plant).

EAST GIPPSLAND.

In Eastern Gippsland the influence of sub-tropical conditions is prolonged along the Pacific Slope, the eastern aspect, the protection of the coastal range, and probably the warm East Australian Ocean Current conducing to the extension in range of many plants ordinarily found in warmer latitudes. Thus, e.g., we have *Angophora intermedia* (Gum Myrtle), *Livistona australis* (Austral Cabbage Palm), *Acronychia laevis* (Yellow Wood), *Telopea oreades* (Gippsland Waratah), *Eucalyptus corymbosa* (Bloodwood), *E. botryoides* (Mahogany Gum), *E. ligustrina* (Dwarf Stringybark), *E. Maidenii* (Spotted Blue Gum), *E. fastigiata* (Cut-tail Stringybark), *E. paniculata* (Grey Ironbark), *E. pilularis* (Blackbutt), *E. radiata* (River White Gum), *E. maculata* (Spotted Gum), *E. numerosa* (Peppermint Gum), *E. Baueriana* (Fuzzy Gum), and *E. Bosistoana* (Gippsland Box), and many other plants of northern origin not found elsewhere in Victoria beyond the Gippsland lake district. Added to this is great exuberance in growth and the presence in moist sheltered valleys with a southern aspect of a jungle flora of much interest as so far removed from its usual range. A further instance of this southern trend and favourable conditions is seen on the coastal bays in the presence of *Avicennia officinalis* (White Mangrove) in Corner Inlet and Western Port. The coastal flora now disappearing from the vicinity of Melbourne has a most important function in staying the sand drifts, and in resisting encroachment of the sea on the land, Tea trees, Acacias, Casuarinas, Banksias, above a lesser scrub vegetation being notable in this connexion.

FOREST DESTRUCTION.

The Gippsland and Cape Otway districts have been famous for the extraordinary beauty of their fern gullies, and their extensive forests formerly containing, as in Gippsland in the Mountain Ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*), probably the highest trees in the world. Unfortunately, right from the first occupation of the forest country, much of which should have been rigorously reserved from encroachment and destruction has

resulted in complete denudation of valuable forest areas, and ruthless destruction of the trees by fire and axe, so that the character of the country has been completely altered, new climatic conditions created, and the soil exposed to the action of atmospheric agencies causing rapid deterioration and irreparable diminution of our timber resources. Despite many warnings during the last 70 years as to the result of such an unwise policy, and notwithstanding the disastrous results shown from pursuing similar destruction in other countries, the forestry problem, of such outstanding importance to the State, has in the past received little if any attention. It is only now, when the most valuable forest areas have been devastated and the absolute necessity of conservation, selection, and protection of the depleted areas still existing has been tardily recognised through the increasing shortage in the world's timber supplies, that more vigorous action has been taken by the State and an effort made to cultivate a forest conscience in the people, Afforestation and reafforestation should be wisely, widely, and unrelentingly carried on throughout the State.

DETRIMENTAL AGENCIES TO FLORA.

Among other agencies affecting our indigenous flora is the introduction of alien plants, some of which finding exceptionally favourable conditions for growth have flourished to the detriment and, in some cases, extinction of certain indigenous plants. Mention may be made of such noxious plants, e.g., the Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*), St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), the Tutsan (*H. androsaemum*), Furze (*Ulex europaeus*), Sweet Briar (*Rosa rubiginosa*), &c. As in the case of plants, animals introduced by accident or design, have also had an effect upon our flora, e.g., the rabbit in the dryer areas, borers, scale insects, beetles on our native trees and shrubs. The great degree to which Victoria is a pastoral country has greatly affected the existence of our native flora, the grazing of cattle and sheep, especially the latter, tending to the restriction or the gradual disappearance of many species, whilst settlers themselves, to benefit their pastures, have not scrupled, in some case unlawfully, to destroy the natural covering of trees and scrub. Other factors causing change and modification in our flora are the growth of settlement, replacing, sometimes disastrously, the indigenous by the introduced plants, as in the case of grasses and trees; cultivation, subdivision, drainage and irrigation of the land all have far-reaching effects in altering the natural conditions under which the native flora persists, or in causing its complete disappearance. Thus forest land may become a grazing area, morass and swamp, a pasturage, shallow watercourses, a reservoir of water, springs may cease to flow, fern gullies may disappear, and dry areas may receive supplies of moisture by irrigation. In each case there is a serious reaction on the flora. Everywhere there is a vital disturbance and an introduction of factors inimical to the preservation of indigenous plants, however useful or attractive.

RESERVATIONS AND SANCTUARIES.

Such being the case it is a wise provision and a duty of the State, in accordance with the long-neglected policy of preservation of forest areas for national purposes, to set apart suitable areas in which, as far as possible, our distinctive flora and fauna also can be preserved under natural conditions of growth. The reservation of Wilson's Promontory—101,000 acres—as a National Park, and of other smaller areas in different parts of the State, is a commendable step, but such reservations should be greatly extended, and include comparatively large areas in Eastern Gippsland, the Mallee, the Grampians, the Otway district, and Yarra watershed respectively, each with typical flora of its own. In the advocacy of such sanctuaries worthy of preservation for future ages, the societies concerned with the study of nature and of science in Victoria have done excellent and commendable work.

THE FAUNA OF VICTORIA.

An article on the "Fauna of Victoria," by the late T. S. Hall, M.A., D.Sc. (University of Melbourne), and J. A. Kershaw, Esq., F.Z.S., Curator of the National Museum, Melbourne, appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, and addenda thereto by Mr. Kershaw in the *Year-Books* for 1918-19 and 1920-21.

THE HISTORY OF VICTORIA.

An article on this subject contributed by Ernest Scott, Professor of History in the University of Melbourne, appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 1 to 31.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF LEADING EVENTS.

The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contained, on pages 31 to 50, a chronological table of leading events in Victorian history for the years 1770 to 1900 inclusive, and of leading events in Victorian and other history for the years 1901 to 1916 inclusive. The leading events in the seven years 1917 to 1923 were given in the volumes relating to those years.

Some of the principal events in Victorian and other history during 1924 are given in the table which follows:—

1924. 21st January	..	A motion of no-confidence in the Baldwin Government was carried in the House of Commons. A Labour Ministry, with Mr. Ramsay MacDonald as Prime Minister, assumed office.
3rd February	..	Death of Dr. Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, 1913-21, aged 68 years.
26th February	..	It was announced that the New South Wales Government had accepted the tender of Dorman, Long and Co. for the construction of a bridge across Sydney Harbour at a cost of £4,217,721.

1924. 28th February	..	The appointment of Mr. G. Fairbairn as Agent-General for Victoria announced.
17th March	..	A British Special Service Squadron arrived in Port Phillip Bay. It was composed of two battle cruisers—H.M.S. <i>Hood</i> and H.M.S. <i>Repulse</i> —and five light cruisers. Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Field was in command of the squadron.
6th April ..	..	Death of Sir J. E. Mackay, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.
12th April	..	H.M.A.S. <i>Australia</i> was sunk in 900 feet of water, 24 miles off Sydney Heads, in accordance with the terms of the Washington Naval Treaty.
15th May	..	Sir J. A. M. Elder, of Melbourne, appointed to succeed Mr. Donald Mackinnon, as Commissioner for Australia in the United States.
26th June	..	General elections for the State Legislative Assembly held.
18th July	..	Resignation of the Peacock Government after being defeated on a no-confidence motion in the Legislative Assembly.
18th July	..	A Labour Ministry, with the Hon. G. M. Prendergast as Premier, assumed office.
18th August	..	Conference of statistical officers of the Commonwealth, Australian States and New Zealand opened at Adelaide.
8th October	..	The British Labour Ministry defeated in the House of Commons by 364 votes to 198. A dissolution was asked for by the Prime Minister (Mr. MacDonald), and was granted by His Majesty the King.
November	..	Elections for the House of Commons were held, and resulted in the defeat of the Labour Party. The Conservative Party came back with a large majority, and a Ministry, under the leadership of Mr. Stanley Baldwin, assumed office.
November	..	Mr. Coolidge elected President of the United States.
12th November	..	The Prendergast Ministry defeated in the Victorian Legislative Assembly by 34 votes to 28. A new Ministry was formed by Mr. Allan, of the Country Party, with Sir A. J. Peacock in the office of Treasurer.
23rd December	..	The Prime Minister of the Commonwealth (the Hon. S. M. Bruce) announced that the Federal Ministry had decided to continue the existing policy regarding the sugar industry for three years from 31st August, 1925.

PROGRESS OF STATE SINCE 1850.

The following table has been prepared to illustrate the advance made by the State since 1850—the year immediately preceding the separation of the Colony from New South Wales. The subsequent years are census years except the last :—

STATISTICS OF VICTORIAN PROGRESS, 1850 TO 1924.

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Victorian Year-Book, 1924-25.

	1850.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1924.
Population, 31st December ..	76,162	541,800	747,412	879,886	1,157,678	1,209,900	1,339,893	1,550,686	1,657,095
Revenue .. £	259,433	2,592,101	3,734,422	5,186,011	8,343,588	7,712,099	9,372,637	19,054,475	23,075,668
Expenditure from Revenue £	196,440	3,092,021	3,659,534	5,108,642	9,128,699	7,672,780	9,362,291	13,941,698	23,050,968
Public Funded Debt .. £	..	6,345,060	11,994,800	22,426,502	43,638,897	49,546,275	57,983,764	97,317,831	124,108,326
Gold produced .. oz.	..	1,967,453	1,355,477	858,850	576,400	789,562	542,074	114,602	74,638
Wool produced .. lbs.	16,345,468	22,640,745	37,177,646	45,970,560	76,503,635	73,235,138	101,803,644	90,250,571	82,513,361
Butter produced .. "	..	..	..	..	16,703,786	46,857,572	86,500,474	64,938,458	86,888,723
Agriculture—									
Land in cultivation .. acres	52,341	427,241	793,918	1,582,998	2,512,593	3,847,459	5,386,247	6,425,250	6,976,441
Wheat .. bushels	556,167	3,607,727	4,500,795	8,714,377	13,679,268	12,127,382	34,813,019	39,468,625	37,795,704
Oats .. "	99,535	2,136,430	3,299,889	3,612,111	4,455,551	6,724,900	9,699,127	10,907,191	9,366,005
Wine .. gallons	4,621	47,568	713,589	539,191	1,554,130	1,981,475	1,362,420	2,222,305	2,177,127
Live Stock—Horses .. No.	21,219	84,057	181,643	278,195	404,696	392,237	472,080	487,503	486,075
" Cattle .. "	378,806	628,092	799,509	1,286,677	1,812,104	1,602,384	1,547,569	1,575,159	1,591,367
" Sheep .. "	6,032,783	6,239,258	10,002,381	10,267,265	12,923,148	10,841,790	12,882,665	12,171,084	11,059,761
" Pigs .. "	9,260	43,480	177,447	239,926	286,780	350,370	333,281	175,275	259,795
Total Imports—Value .. £	744,925	13,532,452	12,341,995	16,718,521	21,711,608	18,927,340	28,150,198*	..	..
" Exports—Value .. £	1,041,796	13,828,606	14,557,820	16,252,103	16,006,743	18,646,097	29,896,275*	..	..
Imports, Oversea—Value .. £	..	10,991,377	9,201,942	11,815,677	13,802,598	12,686,880	21,850,963	57,608,777	49,592,677
Exports .. " .. £	..	12,209,794	12,843,451	12,318,128	11,403,922	13,075,259	18,915,716	34,871,961	29,611,985
Shipping .. " .. tonnage	195,117	1,090,002	1,355,025	2,411,902	4,715,109	6,715,491	9,907,046	9,314,944	13,532,568
Railways open .. miles	..	214	276	1,247	3,238	3,496	4,274	4,442	4,442
Telegraph wire .. "	..	2,586	3,472	6,626	13,989	15,356	16,405	31,243	35,043
Postal business—Letters .. No.	381,651	6,109,929	11,716,166	26,308,347	62,526,448	83,973,499	159,092,011	180,797,030	195,166,640
" Newspapers .. "	381,158	4,277,179	5,172,970	11,440,732	22,729,005	27,104,344	36,125,728	31,660,611	40,241,184
Savings Bank Deposits .. £	52,697	582,796	1,117,761	2,569,438	5,715,687	9,662,006	18,213,040	48,262,058†	57,326,305†
Factories—									
Number of ..	..	531	1,740	2,488	3,141	3,249	4,873	6,532	7,289
Hands employed ..	..	4,395	19,468	43,209	52,225	66,529	102,176	140,743	156,162
Value of machinery, plant, land, and buildings .. £	..	..	4,725,125	8,044,296	16,472,859	12,298,500	16,613,348	35,492,735	53,196,475
Value of articles produced .. £	..	..	..	13,370,836	22,390,251	19,478,780	36,660,854	106,098,294	113,921,927
State Education—									
Number of Primary schools ..	61	671	988	1,757	2,233	1,967	2,059	2,334	2,460
Expenditure on Education .. £	..	162,547	274,384	546,285	726,711	701,034	1,052,418	2,117,151	2,763,213
Total value of rateable property in municipalities .. £	..	29,638,091	50,166,078	87,642,459	203,351,360	185,101,993	265,083,727	399,502,745	499,667,961
Friendly Societies—									
Number of members ..	..	7,166	35,706	47,908	89,269	101,045	145,439	143,421	150,264
Total funds .. £	..	..	213,004	475,954	961,933	1,370,604	2,246,096	3,375,050	3,838,252

NOTE.—In a few instances in the earlier years, where it is not possible to give figures for the exact date or period shown, those for the nearest dates or periods are given. Gold was discovered in 1851, in which year the return was 145,137 oz. Butter figures were not collected prior to 1891.

* These figures relate to the calendar year 1909. Owing to the Commonwealth authorities having discontinued the keeping of records of Inter-State trade the value of the total imports and exports of the State are not available for a later year.

† Including deposits in the Commonwealth Savings Bank.

The population of the State at the end of 1850 was 76,162; at the end of 1924 it had increased to 1,657,095. During the period 1850-1924 the revenue steadily increased from £259,433 to £23,075,968. There was no public debt until after the separation of the State from New South Wales. In 1861 the State indebtedness was £6,345,060; in 1924 the funded debt had reached £124,108,326, which has been spent on revenue-yielding and other works of a permanent character. The land in cultivation in 1850 was 52,300 acres; it now amounts to 6,976,441 acres. The value of oversea imports in 1861 was £10,991,377; in 1923-24 it was £49,592,677. Oversea exports amounted to £12,209,794 in 1861, and to £29,611,985 in 1923-24. No railways or telegraphs were in existence up to the end of 1855; in 1861 there were 214 miles of railway open, and in 1924 there were 4,442 miles; 2,586 miles of telegraph wires had been erected up to 1861, and 35,043 miles up to the 30th June, 1924. Postal business in letters and newspapers has expanded rapidly during the period covered by the table, and there has also been a large increase in Savings Bank deposits, which rose from £52,697 in 1850 to £57,326,305 in 1924.

The expenditure on education amounted to £162,547 in 1861, and had increased to £2,763,213 in 1923-24. Members of friendly societies numbered 7,166 in 1861 and 150,264 in 1923-24—the funds amounting to £213,000 in 1871 and £3,833,052 in 1923-24. Hands employed in factories rose from 19,468 in 1871 to 156,162 in 1923-24. The total value of rateable property in municipalities, which was £29,600,000 in 1861, was £499,967,961 in 1923-24.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

The Present Constitution.

After the establishment of the Federal Government it became evident that the representation of the States in the States Houses was excessive, and steps were taken to reform the States Constitutions. Accordingly an Act "to provide for the Reform of the Constitution" was passed in Victoria and reserved for the Royal assent on 7th April, 1903. After an interval of some months the Royal assent was proclaimed on 26th November, 1903. This Act, entitled *The Constitution Act 1903*, provided for a reduction in the number of responsible Ministers from ten to eight, and in their salaries from £10,400 to £8,400 (since increased to £10,000); and decreased the number of members of the Legislative Council from 48 to 35, including one special representative for the State railways and public servants; but increased the number of electoral provinces from fourteen to seventeen, each being now represented by two members elected for six years—one retiring every three years by rotation, except at a general election, when one-half of the members are to be elected for only three years. The property qualification of members of the Council was reduced from

**Reform Act
1903.**

£100 to £50 as the annual value of the freehold, and that of electors qualifying as lessees or occupying tenants from an annual value of £25 to one of £15. A reduction was also made in the number of members of the Legislative Assembly from 95 to 68—including two to be specially elected by the railway officers, and one by the State public servants—and in that of the electoral districts from 84 to 65. The Constitution was again amended in 1906 by the repeal of the provisions in the Act of 1903 relating to the separate representation of railway officers and State public servants. The Assembly now consists of 65 and the Council of 34 members.

Power is given to any Minister who is a member of the Assembly to sit in the Council or *vice versa*—in order to explain the provisions of any measure connected with any department administered by him. The Council is empowered to suggest alterations in any Appropriation Bill once at each of three stages of the Bill, viz.—(a) when in Committee, (b) on the Report of the Committee, and (c) on the third reading. The remedy provided to meet disagreements between the two Houses is the simultaneous dissolution of both after a Bill has been twice submitted to, and rejected by the Council—viz., once before, and once after a dissolution of the Assembly in consequence of such first rejection.

The Governor acts under the authority of Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, and according to Royal instructions issued by the Colonial Office. He is the official head of the Legislature, and assents in the name of the Crown to all Acts passed by the Parliament, reserving for the Royal assent certain Bills, such as those relating to divorce or to the granting of land or money to himself. The only matters in which the exercise of any discretion is required on the part of the Governor are (a) the assenting to or dissenting from or reserving of Bills passed by the Parliament; (b) the granting or withholding of a dissolution of Parliament when requested by a Premier; and (c) the appointment of a new Ministry.

When a Ministry is defeated in Parliament on an important measure or at the polls, its members almost invariably tender their resignations to the Governor, whose duty it is in such a case to announce his intention of accepting them. The outgoing Premier generally suggests to the Governor, as his successor, the name of the most prominent of his opponents, usually the leader of the Opposition. Thereupon the Governor "sends for" the individual suggested, who, if he feels in a position to carry on the Government, endeavours to form a Ministry. If he fails, he informs the Governor of the fact, and some one else is applied to. The distribution of the portfolios is first arranged by the proposed Ministers themselves, and afterwards submitted to the Governor for approval, who always adopts it, unless the list contains the name of some one

Forming a
new Ministry.

against whom very serious objections exist, or foreshadows a new and evolutionary arrangement.

Granting a dissolution. When a Ministry finds that it is unable to carry on the affairs of the country in the manner it deems essential for the well-being of the community, when it is defeated on a measure which it considers vital, or when it has not a proper working majority, the Premier may, instead of advising the Governor to "send for" some one else, ask for a dissolution; and the principle which guides a Governor in granting or refusing such a request is the probability of success for the Ministry in the event of its being granted. In regard to these matters, however, the instructions issued to the Governor are elaborate and definite; and it is very rarely that any personal exercise of discretion is necessary. In other matters the Governor acts on the advice of the Executive Council.

The Executive Council. The Executive Council consists of two classes of members, viz.:—(a) Members forming the Ministry of the day, whether salaried or honorary; (b) all ex-Ministers who have not actually resigned or vacated their seats. The latter Councillors take no active part, as such, in the deliberations of the Ministry, the title being merely an honorary distinction. The expression "Governor in Council," occurring so frequently in Victorian Acts, means the Governor by and with the advice of such members of the Executive Council as are included in the former category mentioned above. Even in its active phase, that of the existing Ministry, the Executive Council has two shapes, the formal and the informal. The latter, which is spoken of as the "Cabinet," is the real core and essence of the Government. In its private meetings at the Premier's office no one is admitted but the actual Ministry of the day, no record of the meetings transpires, and no official notice is ever taken of the proceedings. The former is presided over by the Governor, and attended by the Clerk of the Council, who keeps a formal record of its proceedings and deliberations, which are frequently published with the names of its members prefixed. Here the decisions of the Cabinet are put into official form.

Responsible Ministers. The number of salaried Ministers is now limited to eight, and their salaries to £10,000 (Act No. 3118); four at least must be members of the Council or Assembly, but not more than two shall be members of the Council nor more than six of the Assembly. Although only four Ministers are required to be members of either House, in practice all members of a Ministry are always members. The head of the Ministry—the Premier, a merely titular distinction—has usually filled the office of Treasurer as well, and may occupy any office.

The Parliament. The Parliament consists of two Chambers, the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly. The general power of legislation is conferred upon "His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the said Council and Assembly."

By Section 56 of The Constitution Act it was provided that—"All Bills for appropriating any part of the revenue of Victoria, and for imposing any duty, rate, tax, rent, or impost shall originate in the Assembly, and may be rejected, but not altered, by the Council." There was great difference of opinion as to the interpretation of this section, it being held by many that the words "all Bills for appropriating" (revenue) "and for imposing" (taxes) signified Bills having for their principal object the authorizing of payments or the granting of supply; it was also contended that legislation which merely incidentally or consequentially authorized the collection of money or the payment of officials could be dealt with as ordinary legislation by the Council. This matter was dealt with by Section 30 of *The Constitution Act* 1903, which, on a consolidation of Acts, became Section 33 of *The Constitution Act Amendment Act* 1915 (No. 2632). This section declares that a Bill shall not be deemed for appropriating, &c., or for imposing, &c., by reason only of its containing provisions "for the imposition or appropriation of fines or other pecuniary penalties or for the demand or payment or appropriation of fees for licences or fees for services under such Bill." In regard to the latter portion of Section 56 of The Constitution Act, providing that Money Bills must originate in the Assembly, and may be rejected but not altered by the Council, the new Act provides, as in the Commonwealth Constitution, that the Council may suggest alterations, as mentioned previously.

It is also provided by Section 57 of The Constitution Act that Appropriation Bills must have been first recommended by a message of the Governor to the Assembly before they can be introduced. The Governor, of course, acts in this matter on the advice of the Ministry.

The Council—called the Upper House—now consists of 34 members. The State is divided into seventeen electoral provinces, each returning two members. At the first election the member in each constituency who, of the two elected, receives the higher number of votes retains his seat for six years, whilst the other member retains his seat for three years only, subject, of course, to the dissolution of both Houses in case of a deadlock, as previously described. One-half of the members thus retire every three years. Women are eligible for membership under the provisions of Act No. 3337, which was proclaimed on 12th May, 1924. To be qualified for membership, a candidate must be of the age of 30 years, and a natural-born subject, or, if not natural-born, must have been naturalized and resident in Victoria for ten years, and must have been beneficially entitled to a freehold estate in Victoria of the clear annual value according to municipal valuation of £50 for one year "previously to" his or her election. *The Constitution Act Amendment Act* 1922 (No. 3218) provides for the reimbursement of expenses of members of the Legislative Council at the rate of £200 per annum. The following

The
Legislative
Council.

persons aged 21 or over, if they are natural-born subjects, or naturalized for three years and resident in Victoria for twelve months, are entitled to vote for the Council in the electoral division on the rolls of which their names appear:—The owner of a freehold rated at an annual value of £10; the owner of a leasehold created originally for five years or the occupying tenant of land, rated at £15 annual value; graduates of a British University, matriculated students of the University of Melbourne, barristers and solicitors, legally-qualified medical practitioners, duly appointed ministers of religion, certificated schoolmasters, and naval and military officers, active and retired. Qualified ratepayers are enrolled automatically from the municipal rolls. Persons claiming in respect of a professional and residential qualification must take out electors' rights for the division in which they reside. The Victorian Adult Suffrage Act, which received the Royal assent on 31st March, 1909, provides for womanhood suffrage in elections for the Council under the same property and other conditions as relate to men.

The Assembly, commonly called the Lower House, now consists of 65 members. For the whole of the seats single electorates are now provided. Each Assembly expires by effluxion of time at the end of three years from its first meeting, but may be sooner dissolved by the Governor. To be qualified for election to the Assembly, a candidate must be a natural-born subject or a person who has been naturalized for five years and resident in Victoria for two years. Women are eligible for membership in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 3337. The following persons are ineligible:—Judges, ministers of religion, Government contractors, uncertificated insolvents, holders of offices of profit under the Crown (except Ministers), and persons who have been attainted of treason, or convicted of felony or infamous offence in the British dominions. A member vacates his seat, if he resigns; is absent for a whole session without permission of the House; takes any oath or declaration of allegiance or adherence to a foreign power, or becomes a subject of a foreign State; becomes bankrupt, insolvent, or a public defaulter; is attainted of treason, or convicted of felony, &c.; becomes *non compos mentis*; or enters into a Government contract. Universal suffrage is in force for the Assembly, all persons over the age of 21 years, natural-born or naturalized, being allowed a vote, if they have been resident in Australia for at least six months continuously, in Victoria for at least three months, and in any subdivision for at least one month. An Act to amend the law relating to Parliamentary elections was passed on 22nd December, 1923. It provided that arrangements might be made jointly by the State of Victoria and the Commonwealth that the electoral rolls might be used for Commonwealth elections as well as for elections for the Legislative Assembly. The first roll was composed of the persons on the Commonwealth roll, together with persons entitled to be enrolled for the Assembly. Persons enrolled in respect of residence may

also be enrolled in another subdivision for lands or tenements situated therein. Enrolment is compulsory which, however, does not apply to enrolment in respect of a property qualification. No person is entitled to have his name on more than two rolls, and a person cannot vote more than once at an Assembly election. The franchise was extended to women by the *Adult Suffrage Act* 1908, assented to in March, 1909. A member of the Assembly receives reimbursement of his expenses in relation to his attendance at the rate of £500 per annum. The Assembly is presided over by a Speaker, who is elected at the first meeting after every general election, and vacates his seat by expiry or dissolution of the House, and by death, resignation, or a removing vote of the House. When the Assembly resolves itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the details of any measure, it is presided over by a Chairman of Committees. The Assembly cannot proceed to business unless twenty members, exclusive of the Speaker, are present; the Speaker has a casting but no substantive vote.

To facilitate the exercise of the franchise in sparsely-populated districts, the *Voting by Post Act* 1900 was passed on 17th October, 1900. This measure enabled any elector who was resident, or was likely to be staying, on the polling day, more than five miles from the nearest polling booth, or who was prevented by reason of sickness or infirmity from voting personally, to obtain a ballot-paper entitling him to vote by post for any candidate in his district standing for either House of Parliament. The Act came into force on 1st December, 1900, and was to continue in force for a term of three years, and thence until the end of the next session of Parliament. Subsequent Acts continued the measure to 31st December, 1910. The *Electoral Act* 1910, now incorporated in *The Constitution Act Amendment Act* 1915 (No. 2632), makes permanent provision for voting by post at elections for either House. If an elector satisfies the returning officer that he resides five miles or, in the case of a mountainous division, at least three miles from the nearest polling booth, or has reason to believe that he will not be within five miles of the nearest polling booth on the day of the election during the hours of polling, or that on account of ill-health or infirmity he will be prevented from voting personally, a postal ballot-paper may be issued to him. At the State elections held on 30th August, 1921, 9,676 persons voted by post, representing 2·97 per cent. of the total votes recorded, and at the elections held on 26th June, 1924, 8,069 persons voted similarly, this number being 2·18 per cent. of the total votes polled.

By an Act originally passed on 24th December, 1903, now incorporated in *The Constitution Act Amendment Act* 1915 (No. 2632), it is provided that the electoral expenses (other than personal expenses incurred in travelling and attending election meetings) of a candidate for the Legislative Council

**Voting by
post at
elections.**

**Limitation of
election
expenses.**

and Legislative Assembly shall not exceed £400 and £150 respectively. A limitation is also placed upon the matters in respect of which such sums may be expended. No electoral expenses shall be incurred by or on behalf of a candidate except in respect of:—(1) The expenses of printing, advertising, publishing, issuing, and distributing addresses and notices, and purchase of rolls. (2) The expenses of stationery, messages, postage, and telegrams. (3) The expenses of holding public meetings, and hiring halls for that purpose. (4) The expenses of committee rooms. (5) One scrutineer at each polling booth, and no more. (6) One agent for any electoral province or district.

ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, 1925.

Elections for the Legislative Council. At the triennial elections for the Legislative Council, held on 4th June, 1925, eight seats were contested, nine members being returned unopposed. The following table shows the number of electors on the rolls for each province and the number who voted in the provinces where elections were held :—

NUMBER OF ELECTORS AND VOTES POLLED AT THE TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON 4TH JUNE, 1925.

Province.	Number of Electors on Rolls.	Number of Electors who voted.			In-formal Votes.	Number who voted by Post.	Pro-portion of Electors who voted.
		Rate-payers.	Non-ratepayers.	Total.			
East Yarra ..	52,417	11,517	1	11,518	108	125	Per cent.
Melbourne ..	22,844	..	..	..	..	..	21·97
" East ..	20,379	..	..	..	..	..	..
" North ..	47,913	..	..	..	..	..	..
" South ..	29,634	9,984	4	9,988	288	72	33·70
" West ..	31,429	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bendigo ..	10,959	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gippsland ..	17,248	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson ..	11,453	4,595	..	4,595	18	93	40·12
Northern ..	15,520	6,290	3	6,293	174	147	40·55
North-Eastern ..	13,193	..	..	..	..	..	..
North-Western ..	20,575	..	..	..	..	..	..
Southern ..	16,141	4,760	10	4,770	67	115	29·55
South-Eastern ..	42,095	..	..	..	..	..	..
South-Western ..	21,203	7,144	..	7,144	58	214	33·69
Wellington ..	11,234	6,367	4	6,371	58	465	56·71
Western ..	15,273	5,354	..	5,354	76	91	35·06
	399,510						
Less uncontested provinces (9)	226,635						
Total ..	172,875	56,011	22	56,033	847	1,322	32·41

ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1924.

Elections. Legislative Assembly. At the elections for the Legislative Assembly held on 26th June, 1924, there were contests in 45 of the 65 constituencies, each returning one member. The number of electors on the rolls was 900,427—433,357 males and 467,070 females—and in contested districts 59·24 per cent. of the number entitled recorded their votes, the proportion for males being 63·02 per cent. and for females 55·72 per cent. The following table shows the number of electors, the votes polled, and the percentage of the latter to the former in the different electoral districts:—

NUMBER OF ELECTORS AND VOTES POLLED FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON 26TH JUNE, 1924.

Electoral District.	Number of Electors on Rolls at Date of General Election.			Electors who Voted.								
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Percentage of Num- ber on the Roll.					
							Males.	Females.	Total.			
Abbotsford ..	6,656	7,854	14,510			No contest.						
Albert Park ..	9,318	11,113	20,431	5,862	6,212	12,074	62·91	55·90	59·10			
Allandale ..	2,514	2,702	5,216			No contest.						
Ballaarat East	4,300	5,456	9,756	3,349	3,974	7,323	77·88	72·84	75·06			
Ballaarat West	4,331	6,218	10,549	3,276	4,215	7,491	75·64	67·79	71·01			
Barwon ..	6,022	6,333	12,355	3,780	3,587	7,367	62·77	56·64	59·63			
Benalla ..	3,644	3,464	7,108	2,187	1,723	3,910	60·01	49·74	55·01			
Benambra ..	3,633	3,067	6,700	2,164	1,490	3,654	59·57	48·58	54·54			
Bendigo East	3,623	4,581	8,204	2,541	3,066	5,557	70·14	65·84	67·74			
Bendigo West	4,165	4,852	9,017	3,234	3,496	6,730	77·65	72·05	74·64			
Boroondara ..	27,955	35,168	63,123	13,250	14,895	28,145	47·40	42·35	44·59			
Borung ..	4,301	3,555	7,856	2,203	1,559	3,762	51·22	43·85	47·89			
Brighton ..	13,710	16,826	30,536	7,845	8,804	16,649	57·22	52·32	54·52			
Brunswick ..	13,071	14,717	27,788			No contest.						
Bulla ..	6,209	5,601	11,810	4,208	3,162	7,370	67·77	56·45	62·40			
Carlton ..	5,518	6,249	11,767			No contest.						
Castlemaine and Maldon ..	2,886	3,360	6,246	2,230	2,304	4,534	77·27	68·57	72·59			
Collingwood ..	6,536	7,676	14,212			No contest.						
Dalhousie ..	3,292	3,412	6,704	2,755	2,747	5,502	83·69	80·51	82·07			
Dandenong ..	9,802	9,703	19,505	5,599	4,494	10,093	57·12	46·32	51·75			
Daylesford ..	3,032	3,153	6,185	2,637	2,483	5,120	86·97	78·75	82·78			
Dundas ..	4,263	3,993	8,256	3,294	2,798	6,092	77·27	70·07	73·79			
Eaglehawk ..	2,849	3,012	5,861	1,726	1,583	3,309	60·58	52·56	56·46			
East Melbourne	5,389	5,549	10,938	2,872	2,819	5,691	53·29	50·80	52·03			
Essendon ..	17,256	19,783	37,039	11,352	11,225	22,577	65·79	56·74	60·95			
Evelyn ..	6,185	6,046	12,231	3,298	2,606	5,904	53·32	43·10	48·27			
Fitzroy ..	5,660	6,693	12,353			No contest.						
Flemington ..	11,662	12,051	23,713			No contest.						
Geelong ..	7,134	8,271	15,405	5,392	5,785	11,177	75·58	69·94	72·55			

NUMBER OF ELECTORS AND VOTES POLLED FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON 26TH JUNE, 1924
—continued.

Electoral District.	Number of Electors on Rolls at Date of General Election.			Electors who Voted.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Percentage of Number on the Roll.		
							Males.	Females.	Total.
Gippsland East	3,465	2,669	6,134			No contest.			
Gippsland Nth.	4,849	4,694	9,543	3,389	3,097	6,486	69·89	65·98	67·97
Gippsland Sth.	5,310	4,435	9,745			No contest.			
Gippsland West	5,024	4,361	9,385	3,399	2,596	5,995	67·66	59·53	63·88
Glenelg	4,548	4,474	9,022	3,696	3,217	6,913	81·27	71·90	76·62
Goulburn Valley	4,575	4,349	8,924			No contest.			
Grenville ..	2,104	2,152	4,256	1,639	1,573	3,212	77·90	73·09	75·47
Gunbower ..	5,053	4,125	9,178	3,411	2,606	6,017	67·50	63·18	65·56
Hampden ..	6,021	5,552	11,573	3,632	2,782	6,414	60·32	50·11	55·42
Hawthorn ..	13,530	18,613	32,143	8,730	10,478	19,208	64·52	56·29	59·76
Jika Jika ..	19,519	22,029	41,548	12,031	10,920	22,951	61·64	49·57	55·24
Kara Kara ..	3,053	2,905	5,958			No contest.			
Korong ..	3,434	3,084	6,518	2,267	1,878	4,145	66·02	60·89	63·59
Lowan ..	5,466	5,004	10,470	3,840	3,170	7,010	70·25	63·35	66·95
Maryborough	3,099	3,261	6,360	2,422	2,304	4,726	78·15	70·65	74·31
Melbourne ..	4,227	3,511	7,738	2,427	2,011	4,438	57·42	57·28	57·35
Mornington ..	9,315	7,751	17,066	5,434	3,954	9,388	58·34	51·01	55·01
Nth. Melbourne	7,501	8,414	15,915			No contest.			
Ovens ..	2,455	2,425	4,880	1,861	1,701	3,562	75·80	70·14	72·99
Polwarth ..	6,068	5,426	11,494	4,076	3,279	7,355	67·17	60·43	63·99
Port Fairy ..	3,795	3,518	7,313			No contest.			
Port Melbourne	7,686	7,749	15,435			No contest.			
Prahran ..	8,147	11,289	19,436	5,541	6,995	12,536	68·01	61·96	64·50
Richmond ..	7,663	8,718	16,381			No contest.			
Rodney ..	5,875	5,319	11,194	3,614	2,770	6,384	61·51	52·08	57·03
Stawell and									
Ararat ..	3,911	3,999	7,910	3,012	2,873	5,885	77·01	71·84	74·40
St. Kilda ..	15,125	20,807	35,932			No contest.			
Swan Hill ..	12,598	8,715	21,313	6,468	3,940	10,408	51·34	45·21	48·83
Toorak ..	9,626	14,815	24,441	4,928	6,728	11,656	51·19	45·41	47·69
Upper Goulburn	4,205	3,555	7,760	3,218	2,437	5,655	76·53	68·55	72·87
Walhalla ..	4,697	3,100	7,797	2,726	1,451	4,177	58·04	46·81	53·57
Wangaratta ..	3,682	3,483	7,165			No contest.			
Waranga ..	3,397	3,069	6,466			No contest.			
Warrenheip ..	2,775	2,417	5,192			No contest.			
Warmnambool ..	4,675	4,735	9,410	3,338	3,073	6,411	71·40	64·90	68·13
Williamstown ..	11,968	12,090	24,058			No contest.			
Totals ..	433,357	467,070	900,427	..	..	..	..	..	..
Less twenty uncontested districts ..	131,612	142,565	274,177	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	301,745	324,505	626,250	190,153	180,810	370,963	63·02	55·72	59·24

Preferential Voting. The preferential system of voting was adopted where there were more than two persons standing for the same electorate. By the method in vogue previous to 1911 it was not unusual for a candidate to be elected who had received the support of only a minority of those voting. Under the present system a candidate is returned only if the result shows that the majority of those who have voted prefer him to the candidate who has received the next lower number of votes.

In filling up the ballot-paper electors are required to place the figure "1" opposite the name of the candidate whom they wish to see elected, the figure "2" opposite the name of the one whom they would prefer should the first not be returned, the figure "3" opposite their next choice, and so on. After it is known how many first preference votes have been given to the various candidates, if no candidate has received an absolute majority the candidate who has received the fewest first preference votes is declared defeated. The ballot-papers of such defeated candidate are then examined with the view of ascertaining to what candidates the second preferences have been given, and these second preferences are allotted to the persons to whom they relate. Each remaining candidate thus receives, in addition to the first preferences accorded to him, the second preferences in his favour appearing on ballot-papers of the candidate who has been defeated. If there are still more than two candidates left, the procedure described above is repeated, the candidate occupying the lowest place being declared defeated, until it is found that one candidate has received an absolute majority of votes.

In eighteen of the contests in the election of June, 1924, there were more than two candidates. In ten of these the candidate who received the greatest number of votes had an absolute majority of the total first preferences recorded, and consequently a second count was unnecessary. In the eight remaining cases the distribution of ballot-papers of defeated candidates among non-defeated candidates next in order of voters' preference was put into operation, with the result that the candidates returned received an absolute majority of the votes recorded. In four of these cases the candidate who occupied the highest position on the first count was displaced after the second and subsequent preferences had been distributed.

The following are the proportions of electors who voted at the last twenty-four general elections of the State Lower House in districts in which the elections were contested :—

PROPORTION OF VOTERS AT GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1866 TO 1924.

Year of General Election.	Proportion of Electors of Contested Districts who voted. Per cent.	Year of General Election.	Proportion of Electors of Contested Districts who voted. Per cent.
1866	55·10	1897	70·33
1868	61·59	1900	63·47
1871	65·02	1902	65·47
1874	61·00	1904	66·72
1877	62·29	1907	61·26
1880 (Feb.)	66·56	1908	53·64
1880 (July)	65·85	1911	63·61
1883	64·96	1914	53·92
1886	64·70	1917	54·21
1889	66·58	1920	63·70
1892	65·12	1921	57·26
1894	70·99	1924	59·24

**Duration of
Parliaments
and Sessions.** The first session of the twenty-seventh Parliament commenced on 6th September, 1921, and that Parliament was dissolved on 28th May, 1924.

The first session of the twenty-eighth Parliament was opened on 8th July, 1924, and was closed on 9th January, 1925. The second session was opened on 8th July, 1925.

The following is a statement of the duration in days of each Parliament since the establishment of responsible government, the

number of days in session during each Parliament, and the percentage of the latter to the duration :—

**DURATION OF PARLIAMENTS AND SESSIONS,
1856 TO 1924.**

Number of Parliament.	Period.	Duration of Parliament.	Days in Session.	
			Number.	Percentage to Duration.
		Days.		
1st	1856-8	991	691	69.7
2nd	1859-60	637	566	88.8
3rd	1861-4	1,091	728	66.7
4th	1864-5	378	366	96.8
5th	1866-7	686	391	57.0
6th	1868-70	1,048	734	70.0
7th	1871-3	1,049	639	60.9
8th	1874-6	1,072	700	65.3
9th	1877-9	993	684	68.9
10th	1880	49	46	93.9
11th	1880-2	926	802	86.6
12th	1883-6	1,088	543	49.9
13th	1886-9	1,091	653	59.9
14th	1889-92	1,093	636	58.2
15th	1892-4	845	524	62.0
16th	1894-7	1,089	684	62.8
17th	1897-00	1,088	586	53.9
18th	1900-02	671	358	53.4
19th	1902-3	436	300	68.8
20th	1904-7	968	509	52.6
21st	1907-8	518	327	63.1
22nd	1909-11	1,021	548	53.7
23rd	1911-14	1,066	584	54.8
24th	1914-17	1,056	614	58.1
25th	1917-20	1,037	592	57.1
26th	1920-21	270	86	31.9
27th	1921-24	936	494	52.8

STATE ACTS PASSED DURING 1924.

The following is a short synopsis of the Acts passed by the State Parliament during 1924 :—

Act No. Date.
 3337 .. Reserved 22nd Decem- The *Parliamentary Elections (Women Candidates)*
 ber, 1923. Royal Act 1923, to be read with the *Constitution Act*
 Assent proclaimed, Amendment Act 1915, enables women to become
 12th May, 1924 candidates at elections for the State Legislative
 Council and the State Legislative Assembly.

1924.

3338 .. 21st May .. The *Wheat Marketing (Winding Up) Act* 1924
 provides for the winding up of matters out-
 standing in connexion with the administration
 of the Wheat Marketing Acts and the *Wheat*
 Marketing and Transportation Act 1920.

Act No.	Date.	
3339 ..	21st May ..	.. The <i>Railways Standing Committee Act 1924</i> amends section 13 of the Act of 1915, which relates to the number of members to constitute a quorum.
3340 ..	„ ..	.. The <i>Ballan Land Act 1924</i> provides for the permanent reservation as a site for a cricket ground and for purposes of public recreation of certain land in the parish of Ballan and for the sale by auction of certain Crown land in the said parish temporarily reserved as a site for a cricket ground and for purposes of public recreation.
3341 ..	„ ..	.. The <i>Public Account Advances Act 1924</i> relates to the trust funds and the temporary application of moneys out of the Public Account.
3342 ..	9th July ..	.. This Act applies £1,375,247 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1924-25.
3343 ..	23rd July ..	.. This Act applies £1,275,051 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1924-25.
3344 ..	„ ..	.. This Act applies £582,260 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1923-24.
3345 ..	„ ..	.. The <i>Victorian Government Loan Act 1924</i> authorizes the raising of £4,500,000, to be expended as follows:—To make further provision for the construction of main roads and developmental roads under the Country Roads Act, £1,500,000; for irrigation and water supply works in country districts, £1,500,000; and for works and undertakings of the State Electricity Commission, £1,500,000.
3346 ..	3rd September	.. This Act applies £1,264,243 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1924-25.
3347 ..	12th September	.. The <i>Local Government (Melbourne and Geelong) Act 1924</i> extends and applies to the city of Melbourne and the city of Geelong certain provisions of the <i>Local Government Act 1915</i> , with regard to streets and roads.
3348 ..	„	.. The <i>State Savings Bank Act 1924</i> , to be read with the principal Act of 1915, deals with the drawing by cheque on accounts of friendly societies and approved associations, and with the power to receive certain debentures for safe custody. The minimum amount for which Credit Foncier debentures may be issued is reduced from £100 to £10. The limit of the amount of debentures which may be issued is increased from £15,000,000 to £25,000,000.
3349 ..	1st October	.. The <i>Australian Wine Licence (Baillieston) Act 1924</i> provides for the renewal of a certain Australian wine licence in pursuance of a certificate granted by the Licensing Court for the Licensing District of Waranga.
3350 ..	„	.. The <i>Club Hotel, Hopetown, Licence Act 1924</i> provides for the renewal of a certain victualler's licence in pursuance of a certificate granted by the Licensing Court for the Licensing District of Swan Hill.

Act No.	Date.	
3351 ..	1st October	.. The <i>Children's Welfare Act 1924</i> provides for the change of the name of the Department for Neglected Children to Children's Welfare Department; this change also applies to all Acts dealing with this Department.
3352 ..	"	.. The <i>Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways (Inscribed Stock) Act 1924</i> relates to inscribed stock issued under the authority of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board.
3353 ..	"	.. The <i>Jeparit Land Act 1924</i> provides for the revocation of the permanent reservation of certain land in the township and parish of Jeparit and for the issue of a Crown grant in respect thereof to the trustees of the Jeparit Agricultural and Pastoral Society.
3354 ..	"	.. The <i>Richmond Land Act 1924</i> makes further provision as to certain lands vested in the mayor, councillors and citizens of the city of Richmond pursuant to grants from the Crown, and repeals the <i>Richmond Land Act 1912</i> .
3355 ..	"	.. The <i>Yarram Yarram Mechanics' Institute Act 1924</i> gives power to sell land at Yarram Yarram granted in 1866 for the purpose of a mechanics' institute, &c., and authorizes the trustees to purchase other land in the town to be devoted to a similar purpose.
3356 ..	"	.. This Act applies £1,395,448 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1924-25.
3357 ..	"	.. The <i>Audit Act 1924</i> , to be read with the principal Act of 1915, relates to the payment of moneys from the Public Account.
3358 ..	17th October	.. The <i>North Carlton Lands Act 1924</i> , to be read with the Act of 1920, revokes the temporary reservation of certain lands situate at North Carlton for public educational purposes, closes a certain right-of-way and portion of certain streets, and provides for the grant to the Commonwealth of Australia for defence purposes of certain lands in pursuance of an arrangement with the Commonwealth for the exchange of certain lands.
3359 ..	"	.. The <i>Milk Supply Act 1924</i> amends section 5 of the Act of 1922 by giving power to municipal councils to sell milk either by wholesale or retail.
3360 ..	30th October	.. The <i>Real Property (Access of Air) Act 1924</i> relates to certain rights on the transfer of real property.
3361 ..	"	.. This Act applies £1,274,211 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1924-25.
3362 ..	11th November	.. The <i>Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1924</i> repeals the Act of 1915 and makes important alterations in the law regarding the method of registering and conducting these organizations.
3363 ..	13th November	.. The <i>Victorian Wheatgrowers Corporation Limited (Government Guarantee) Act 1924</i> enables the Treasurer of Victoria to arrange for the repayment of certain moneys advanced by banks to the Victorian Wheatgrowers' Corporation Limited in connexion with the marketing of the wheat harvest of the season 1924-25.

Act. No.	Date.	
3364 ..	3rd December	.. The <i>Water Supply Loans Application Act</i> 1924 sanctions the issue and application of £1,686,000 available under Loan Acts for irrigation and water supply works, drainage, and flood protection works in country districts and works under the River Murray Waters Acts.
3365 ..	8th December	.. The <i>Cattle Compensation Act</i> 1924 provides compensation for the owners of cattle suffering from or suspected to have been suffering from disease, which have been destroyed under Governmental authority.
3366 ..	11th December	.. This Act applies £1,376,513 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1924-25.
3367 ..	15th December	.. The <i>Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act</i> 1924 amends the principal Act of 1918.
3368 ..	23rd December	.. The <i>Railway Loan Application Act</i> 1924 sanctions the issue and application of £1,875,000 available under Loan Acts for railways and other purposes.
3369 ..	„	.. The <i>Municipal Endowment Act</i> 1924 provides that the municipal endowment for the year ending 30th June, 1925, be £50,000.
3370 ..	„	.. The <i>Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act</i> 1924 increases the amount that may be borrowed for soldier settlement from £20,000,000 to £22,000,000.
3371 ..	„	.. The <i>Surplus Revenue Act</i> 1924, to be deemed to have come into force on 30th June, 1924, allocates the surplus revenue for the year 1923-24, viz., £132,216, as follows:—For payment to the Commonwealth Government for purchase of Caulfield Hospital and for re-modelling and renovating the building, £44,000; for the erection of a new sanatorium for treatment of tubercular patients at Mont Park, £20,000; for erection of new police buildings, &c., £15,000; for accommodation for patients and nursing staff, hospitals for the insane, £47,000; and for additional accommodation for nurses at the home of the Children's Welfare Department, Royal Park, £6,216.
3372 ..	„	.. The <i>Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage (Borrowing Powers) Act</i> 1924, to be read with the principal Act of 1915, increases the borrowing powers of the Trust from £475,000 to £575,000.
3373 ..	„	.. The <i>Victorian Loan (Public Works) Act</i> 1924 authorizes the raising of £755,000, to be expended in the erection of schools, the construction of roads, and other public works.
3374 ..	„	.. The <i>Country Roads Loan Application Act</i> 1924 sanctions the issue and application of £1,500,000, of which £500,000 is to be expended on main roads and £1,000,000 on developmental roads under the Country Roads Acts.
3375 ..	23rd December	.. The <i>Wire Netting Act</i> 1924 amends the law relating to the supply of wire netting and also amends section 20 of the <i>Fences Act</i> 1915 as regards the liability in respect of vermin-proof dividing fences.

Act No.	Date.	
3376 ..	23rd December	.. The <i>Children's Maintenance Act</i> 1924 amends the Act of 1919.
3377 ..	30th December	.. The <i>Melbourne Electric Supply Company Act</i> 1924 relates to the undertakings of the Melbourne Electric Supply Company Limited.
3378 ..	"	.. The <i>Motor Omnibus Act</i> 1924 makes further provision with respect to motor omnibuses.
3379 ..	"	.. The <i>Highways and Vehicles Act</i> 1924 makes further provision with respect to highways and country roads, motor cars, and traction engines.
3380 ..	"	.. The <i>Dried Fruits Act</i> 1924, to come into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation, relates to dried fruits and dried fruits packing sheds.
3381 ..	"	.. The <i>Electricity Loan Application Act</i> 1924 sanctions the issue and application of £1,569,500 available under Loan Acts for works and undertakings of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria.
3382 ..	"	.. The <i>Mildura Electricity Loan Act</i> 1924 increases the borrowing powers of the council of the town of Mildura for the purposes of works and undertakings for the supply of electricity.
3383 ..	"	.. The <i>Land Tax Act</i> 1924 fixes the rate of land tax for the year 1925 at $\frac{1}{4}$ d. on every pound sterling of the unimproved value where the unimproved value exceeds £250, and, in addition, imposes a super tax equal to 5 per cent. of the amount of land tax payable; the minimum tax payable to be two shillings and sixpence.
3384 ..	"	.. The <i>State Savings Bank (Insurance) Act</i> 1924, to be read with the Act of 1915, makes provision that, in addition to being insured against fire, buildings erected under the bank's supervision shall be insured against the depredations of timber borers, white ants, or other insects.
3385 ..	"	.. The <i>Footscray Land Act</i> 1924 provides for the closing of certain streets in the city of Footscray, and for the reservation from sale of the said portions as a site for educational purposes.
3386 ..	"	.. The <i>Victorian Loan (State Forests) Act</i> 1924 authorizes the raising of £500,000 for State forests and sanctions the issue and application of this money.
3387 ..	"	.. The <i>Cattle Compensation Act</i> 1924 (No. 2) amends the principal Act of 1924 by providing that the residual value of cattle destroyed in accordance with the provisions of the Act be deducted from the amount payable as compensation to the owners of such cattle.
3388 ..	"	.. The <i>Local Government Act</i> 1924 amends the provisions of the Local Government Acts relating to by-laws for or with respect to residential areas and the erection and construction of buildings.
3389 ..	"	.. This Act applies £8,193,710 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1924-25, and appropriates supplies granted during the session amounting to £16,736,683 to the service of the Government.

Act No. Date,
3390 30th December

.. The *Income Tax Act 1924*, to be read with the Acts of 1914 and 1915 and amending Acts and to come into force on 31st December, 1924, fixes the rates of income tax for the year ending 30th June, 1925. Incomes of £200 and under are not taxable. On incomes from £201 to £500 there is an exemption of £200, which, however, does not apply to companies. Incomes from personal exertion are taxed 3d. in the £ up to £500; where such income exceeds £500, for every £ up to £500, 4d.; for every £ over £500 and up to £1,000, 5d.; for every £ over £1,000 and up to £1,500, 6d.; and for every £ over £1,500, 7d. Taxes on incomes from property are double these rates. Additional taxes are levied on incomes (excluding those of companies) from £800 to £1,000 of 10 per cent.; from £1,000 to £1,250 of 12½ per cent.; from £1,250 to £2,200 of 15 per cent.; from £2,200 to £5,000 of 20 per cent.; and exceeding £5,000 of 25 per cent. of the amount of tax otherwise chargeable. Companies (other than mutual life assurance companies) are taxed at the rate of 1s. 3d. in the £. Mutual life assurance companies are taxable at the rate of 1s. in the £ in respect to their mutual life assurance business and at the rate of 1s. 3d. in the £ on all other business. Any married taxpayer ordinarily resident in Victoria, whose income does not exceed £800, may deduct £50 from his income from personal exertion for the maintenance of his wife, provided that she has not an income of her own exceeding £100 per annum. The amount that may be deducted from income for the maintenance of children under 16 years of age is increased from £30 to £50. The minimum income tax payable by any taxpayer is fixed at 5s.

OFFICIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY.

The following statement shows the names and periods of office of Governors and Acting Governors of the State since the first appointment of Mr. Charles Joseph La Trobe as Superintendent, in 1839 :—

GOVERNORS OF VICTORIA.

Name.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.
Charles Joseph La Trobe ...	30th Sept., 1839 ...	5th May, 1854
John Vesey Fitzgerald Foster (acting)	8th May, 1854 ...	22nd June, 1854
Captain Sir Charles Hotham, R.N., K.C.B.	22nd June, 1854 ...	31st Dec., 1855
Major-General Edward Macarthur (acting)	1st January, 1856...	26th Dec., 1856

GOVERNORS OF VICTORIA—continued.

Name.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.
Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B. ...	26th December, 1856	10th September, 1863
Sir Charles Henry Darling, K.C.B.	11th September, 1863	7th May, 1866
Brigadier-General George Jackson Carey, C.B. (acting)	7th May, 1866 ...	15th August, 1866
The Honorable Sir John Henry Thomas Manners-Sutton, K.C.B.	15th August, 1866...	2nd March, 1873
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting)	3rd March, 1873 ...	19th March, 1873
Sir George Ferguson Bowen, G.C.M.G.	31st March, 1873 ...	22nd February, 1879
Sir Redmond Barry, Kt. (acting) ...	3rd January, 1875...	10th January, 1875
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting)	11th January, 1875	14th January, 1876
The Most Honorable George Augustus Constantine Phipps, Marquis of Normanby, G.C.M.G., P.C.	27th February, 1879	18th April, 1884
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting)	18th April, 1884 ...	15th July, 1884
Sir Henry Brougham Loch, { G.C.M.G., K.C.B.	15th July, 1884 ... 18th October, 1889	8th March, 1889 15th November, 1889
Sir William Cleaver Francis Robinson, G.C.M.G. (acting) {	9th March, 1889 ... 16th November, 1889	17th October, 1889 27th November, 1889
The Right Honorable John Adrian Louis Hope, Earl of Hopetoun, G.C.M.G.	28th November, 1889	12th July, 1895
The Honorable John Madden, LL.D. { (acting)	26th January, 1893 27th March, 1895 ...	11th May, 1893 24th October, 1895
The Right Honorable Baron Brass-y, K.C.B.	25th October, 1895	31st March, 1900
The Honorable Sir John Madden, { K.C.M.G., LL.D. (acting)	29th December, 1896 23rd March, 1898 ...	16th February, 1897 21st October, 1898
The Honorable Sir John Madden, K.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant-Governor (acting)	15th January, 1900	10th December, 1901
Sir George Sydenham Clarke, K.C.M.G., F.R.S.	10th December, 1901	24th November, 1903
The Honorable Sir John Madden, K.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant-Governor (acting)	24th November, 1903	25th April, 1904
Major-General Hon. Sir Reginald Arthur James T. Ibot, K.C.B.	25th April, 1904 ...	6th July, 1908
The Honorable Sir John Madden, G.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant-Governor (acting) {	20th March, 1907 .. 6th July, 1908 .. 19th May, 1911 .. 28th August, 1913..	18th November, 1907 27th July, 1908 24th May, 1911 23rd February, 1914

GOVERNORS OF VICTORIA—*continued.*

Name.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.
Sir Thomas David Gibson Carmichael, Baronet, K.C.M.G.	27th July, 1908 ..	19th May, 1911
Sir John Michael Fleetwood Fuller, Baronet	24th May, 1911 ..	31st January, 1914
Sir Arthur Lyulph Stanley, K.C.M.G.	23rd February, 1914	30th January, 1920*
Sir William Hill Irvine, K.C.M.G., { Lieutenant Governor (acting) {	30th July, 1919 ..	24th February, 1921
The Right Hon. the Earl of	1st April, 1923 ..	24th October, 1923
Stradbroke, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.V.O., C.B.E.†	24th February, 1921	

NOTE.—Captain William Lonsdale, formerly of the 4th Regiment, was appointed Police Magistrate of the District of Port Phillip on 9th September, 1836, and assumed office on the 29th of the same month. In that capacity he was in charge of the District until the appointment of Mr. C. J. La Trobe as Superintendent. Subsequently, Captain Lonsdale acted as Superintendent during the temporary absence of Mr. La Trobe, who was called on to administer the Government of Tasmania from the 13th October, 1846, to the 25th January, 1847. Sir William H. Irvine was appointed Lieutenant-Governor, to act in the absence of the Governor, by Commission dated April, 1918.

* On leave of absence for six months from 30th July, 1919.

† On leave of absence from 1st April, 1923, to 24th October, 1923.

The following list shows the names of Ministers who held office from the separation of the Colony from New South Wales in 1851 up to the establishment of responsible government in 1855:—

MINISTERS PRIOR TO RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

Name of Minister.	Office.	Date of Assumption of Office.
William Lonsdale	Colonial Secretary	15th July, 1851
Alastair Mackenzie	Colonial Treasurer ..	
Charles Hotson Ebdon	Auditor-General ..	
Robert Hoddle	Surveyor-General ..	
Alexander McCrae	Chief Postmaster ..	
William Foster Stawell	Attorney-General ..	
Redmond Barry	Solicitor-General ..	13th April, 1852
James Horatio Nelson Cassell	Collector of Customs	
Edward Eyre Williams	Solicitor-General ..	21st July, 1852
James Croke	Solicitor-General ..	30th September, 1852
Frederick Armand Powlett	Colonial Treasurer ..	11th October, 1852
Hugh Culling Eardley Childers	Auditor-General ..	1st July, 1853
Andrew Clarke	Surveyor-General ..	20th July, 1853
John Vesey Fitzgerald Foster	Colonial Secretary	20th July, 1853
William Lonsdale	Colonial Treasurer	5th December, 1853
Hugh Culling Eardley Childers	Collector of Customs	8th December, 1853
Edward Grimes	Auditor-General	4th January, 1854
Robert Molesworth	Solicitor-General ..	12th December, 1854
William Clark Haines	Colonial Secretary	

In the next list will be found the names of the
 Ministries, 1855 to 1925. Premiers of the several Governments from 1855 to the
 present date:—

MINISTRIES SINCE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

Number of Ministry and Name of Premier.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.	Duration of Office.
			Days.
1. William Clark Haines...	28th November, 1855	11th March, 1857 ...	469
2. John O'Shanassy ...	11th March, 1857 ...	29th April, 1857 ...	49
3. William Clark Haines...	29th April, 1857 ...	10th March, 1858 ...	315
4. John O'Shanassy ...	10th March, 1858 ...	27th October, 1859	596
5. William Nicholson ...	27th October, 1859...	26th November, 1860	396
6. Richard Heales ...	26th November, 1860	14th November, 1861	353
7. John O'Shanassy ...	14th November, 1861	27th June, 1863 ...	590
8. James McCulloch ...	27th June, 1863 ...	6th May, 1868 ...	1,775
9. Charles Sladen ...	6th May, 1868 ...	11th July, 1868 ...	66
10. James McCulloch ...	11th July, 1868 ...	20th September, 1869	436
11. John Alexander Mac- Pherson	20th September 1869	9th April, 1870 ...	201
12. James McCulloch ...	9th April, 1870 ...	19th June, 1871 ...	436
13. Charles Gavan Duffy...	19th June, 1871 ...	10th June, 1872 ...	357
14. James Goodall Francis	10th June, 1872 ..	31st July, 1874 ...	781
15. George Briscoe Kerferd	31st July, 1874 ...	7th August, 1875 ...	372
16. Graham Berry ...	7th August, 1875 ...	20th October, 1875	74
17. Sir James McCulloch	20th October, 1875..	21st May, 1877 ...	579
18. Graham Berry ...	21st May, 1877 ...	5th March, 1880 ...	1,019
19. James Service ...	5th March, 1880 ...	3rd August, 1880 ...	151
20. Graham Berry ...	3rd August, 1880 ...	9th July, 1881 ...	340
21. Sir Bryan O'Loughlen...	9th July, 1881 ...	8th March, 1883 ...	607
22. James Service ...	8th March, 1883 ...	18th February, 1886	1,078
23. Duncan Gillies ...	18th February, 1886	5th November, 1890	1,722
24. James Munro ...	5th November, 1890	16th February, 1892	469
25. William Shiels ...	16th February, 1892	23rd January, 1893	343
26. James Brown Patterson	23rd January, 1893	27th September, 1894	612
27. Sir George Turner, P.C., K.C.M.G.	27th September, 1894	5th December, 1899	1,895
28. Allan McLean ...	5th December, 1899	19th November, 1900	350
29. Sir George Turner, P.C., K.C.M.G.	19th November, 1900	12th February, 1901	85
30. Sir Alexander James Peacock, K.C.M.G.	12th February, 1901	10th June, 1902 ...	483
31. William Hill Irvine ...	10th June, 1902 ...	16th February, 1904	616
32. Sir Thomas Bent, K.C.M.G.	16th February, 1904	8th January, 1909	1,789
33. John Murray ...	8th January, 1909	18th May, 1912 ...	1,226
34. William Alexander Watt	18th May, 1912 ...	9th December, 1913	205

MINISTRIES SINCE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT—continued.

Number of Ministry and Name of Premier.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.	Duration of Office.
			Days.
35. George Alexander Elmslie	9th December, 1913	22nd December, 1913	13
36. William Alexander Watt	22nd December, 1913	18th June, 1914 ...	178
37. Sir Alexander James Peacock, K.C.M.G.	18th June, 1914 ...	29th November, 1917	1,260
38. John Bowser ...	29th November, 1917	21st March, 1918 ...	112
39. Harry Sutherland Wightman Lawson	21st March, 1918 ...	7th September, 1923	1,996
40. Harry Sutherland Wightman Lawson	7th September, 1923	19th March, 1924	194
41. Harry Sutherland Wightman Lawson	19th March, 1924	28th April, 1924 ...	40
42. Sir Alexander James Peacock, K.C.M.G.	28th April, 1924...	18th July, 1924 ...	81
43. George Michael Prendergast ...	18th July, 1924...	18th November, 1924	123
44. John Allan ...	18th November, 1924		

When Parliament met after the general elections held on 26th June, 1924, the Peacock Ministry was defeated in the Legislative Assembly, and it resigned office on 18th July, 1924. A Labour Ministry, led by the Hon. G. M. Prendergast, came into office, and was constituted as follows :—

PRENDERGAST MINISTRY.

Name.	Office.
Prendergast, George Michael ..	Premier and Treasurer.
Tunnecliffe, Thomas ..	Chief Secretary.
Lemmon, John ..	Minister of Public Instruction, and Minister of Labour.
Hogan, Edmund John ..	Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Railways, Minister of Markets, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
Bailey, Henry Stephen ..	President of the Board of Land and Works, Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey, and Minister of Water Supply.
Slater, William ..	Attorney-General and Solicitor-General.

PRENDERGAST MINISTRY—*continued*.

Jones, John Percy, M.L.C.	..	Commissioner of Public Works, Minister of Public Health, Minister in Charge of Immigration and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
McNamara, Daniel Laurence, M.L.C.	.. ..	Minister of Mines, Minister of Forests, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
Beckett, William James, M.L.C.	..	Minister without Portfolio.
Disney, James Herbert, M.L.C.	..	Minister without Portfolio.
Cain, John	.. ..	Minister without Portfolio.
Webber, Gordon Charles	..	Minister without Portfolio.

Allan Ministry. On 12th November, 1924, a motion of no-confidence in the Labour Ministry was proposed in the Legislative Assembly by Mr. John Allan, leader of the Country Party, and was carried by 34 votes to 28. On 18th November a Ministry, with Mr. Allan as Premier, assumed office. It consisted of the following members :—

ALLAN MINISTRY.

Name.	Office.
Allan, John	Premier and Minister of Water Supply.
Peacock, Sir Alexander J., K.C.M.G.	Treasurer, Minister of Public Instruction, and Minister of Labour.
Argyle, Stanley Seymour, M.R.C.S.	Chief Secretary and Minister of Public Health.
Eggleston, Frederick William ..	Attorney-General, Solicitor-General, Minister of Railways, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
Downward, Alfred	President of the Board of Land and Works, Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey, and Minister of Immigration.
Richardson, Horace Frank, M.L.C.	Minister of Forests and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
Goudie, George Louis, M.L.C. ..	Commissioner of Public Works, Minister of Mines, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
Bourchier, Murray William James, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D.	Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Markets.
*Crockett, William Paul, M.L.C...	Minister without Portfolio.
McGregor, Martin, M.L.C.	.. Minister without Portfolio.
McDonald, James ..	.. Minister without Portfolio.
Mackrell, Edwin Joseph	.. Minister without Portfolio.

* Mr. Crockett resigned office on 30th June, 1925, and was succeeded by the Hon. Dr. J. R. Harris, M.L.C.

The names of members and of officers of Parliament and of the constituencies which the members represent are given below:—

MEMBERS OF THE STATE PARLIAMENT, 1925.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

President : Hon. F. G. Clarke.

Name of Province.	Name of Member.	Date of Retirement.
Bendigo	Hon. J. Sternberg	1928
East Yarra	Hon. H. Keck	1931
Gippsland	Hon. J. K. Merritt	1928
Melbourne	Hon. W. H. Edgar (Chairman of Committees)	1931
Melbourne East ..	Hon. M. McGregor (Minister without Portfolio)	1928
Melbourne North ..	Hon. G. M. Davis	1931
Melbourne South ..	Hon. H. H. Smith	1928
Melbourne West ..	Hon. H. I. Cohen, K.C.	1931
Nelson	Hon. J. P. Jones	1928
Northern	Hon. D. L. McNamara	1931
North-Eastern ..	Hon. E. L. Kiernan	1928
North-Western ..	Hon. W. J. Beckett	1931
Southern	Hon. T. H. Rayne	1928
South-Eastern ..	Hon. F. G. Clarke (President)	1931
South-Western ..	Hon. R. Williams	1928
Wellington	Hon. J. H. Disney	1931
Western	Hon. T. Beggs	1928
	Hon. E. G. Bath	1931
	Hon. R. H. S. Abbott	1928
	Hon. G. J. Tuckett	1931
	Hon. Dr. J. R. Harris (Minister without Portfolio)	1928
	Hon. A. M. Zwar	1931
	Hon. W. P. Crockett	1928
	Hon. G. L. Goudie (Commissioner of Public Works and Minister of Mines)	1931
	Hon. W. C. Angliss	1928
	Hon. W. L. R. Clarke	1931
	Hon. W. Tyner	1928
	Hon. A. E. Chandler	1931
	Hon. H. F. Richardson (Minister of Forests)	1928
	Hon. H. Hitchcock	1931
	Hon. F. W. Brawn	1928
	Hon. A. Bell	1931
	Hon. M. Saltau	1928
	Hon. E. J. White	1931

Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Council: H. H. Newton, J.P.

Clerk Assistant: H. H. Pearson.

Usher, Accountant, and Clerk of Committees: W. R. Heywood.

Clerk of the Records: P. T. Pook.

Clerk of the Papers: L. V. Hoyle.

MEMBERS OF THE STATE PARLIAMENT, 1925—*continued*.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Speaker : Hon. J. Bowser.

Name of Electoral District.	Name of Member.
Abbotsford	Hon. G. C. Webber.
Albert Park	A. K. Wallace.
Allandale	Hon. Sir A. J. Peacock, K.C.M.G. (Treasurer, Minister of Public Institution, and Minister of Labour).
Ballaarat East	W. J. McAdam.
Ballaarat West	Hon. Major M. Baird.
Barwon	E. Morley.
Benalla	Hon. J. J. Carlisle.
Benambra	Hon. H. Beardmore.
Bendigo East	L. J. Clough.
Bendigo West	A. E. Cook.
Boroondara	E. W. Greenwood.
Borung	D. Allison.
Brighton	O. R. Snowball.
Brunswick	J. R. Jewell.
Bulla	R. T. Hjorth.
Carlton	R. H. Solly.
Castlemaine and Maldon	Hon. H. S. W. Lawson.
Collingwood	Hon. T. Tunnecliffe.
Dalhousie	R. T. Pollard.
Dandenong	Hon. F. Groves.
Daylesford	J. McDonald.
Dundas	Hon. W. Slater.
Eaglehawk	A. A. Dunstan.
East Melbourne	A. A. Farthing.
Essendon	F. Keane.
Evelyn	W. H. Everard.
Fitzroy	M. M. Blackburn.
Flemington	E. C. Warde.
Geelong	W. Brownbill.
Gippsland East	A. E. Lind.
Gippsland North	J. W. McLachlan.
Gippsland South	W. West.
Gippsland West	A. L. N. Walter.
Glenelg	E. E. Bond.
Goulburn Valley	Colonel M. W. J. Bourchier, C.M.G., D.S.O. (Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Markets).
Grenville	A. Hughes, M.C.
Gunbower	Hon. H. Angus.
Hampden	Hon. D. S. Oman.
Hawthorn	Hon. Sir W. M. McPherson.
Jika Jika	Hon. J. Cain.
Kara Kara	Hon. J. W. Pennington.
Korong	I. J. Weaver.
Lowan	Hon. M. E. Wettenhall.
Maryborough	G. C. Frost.
Melbourne	T. Hayes.
Mornington	Hon. A. Downward (Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey and Minister of Immigra- tion).

MEMBERS OF THE STATE PARLIAMENT, 1925—continued.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—continued.

Name of Electoral District.	Name of Member.
North Melbourne	Hon. G. M. Prendergast.
Ovens	Hon. A. A. Billson (Chairman of Committees).
Polwarth	Hon. J. McDonald (Minister without Portfolio).
Port Fairy	Hon. H. S. Bailey.
Port Melbourne	J. L. Murphy.
Prahran	A. R. Jackson.
Richmond	E. J. Cotter.
Rodney	Hon. J. Allan (Premier and Minister of Water Supply).
St. Kilda	Hon. F. W. Eggleston (Attorney-General, Solicitor-General and Minister of Railways).
Stawell and Ararat	Hon. R. F. Toutcher.
Swan Hill	Hon. F. E. Old.
Toorak	Hon. Dr. Stanley S. Argyle (Chief Secretary and Minister of Public Health).
Upper Goulburn	Hon. E. J. Mackrell (Minister without Portfolio).
Walballa	Hon. S. Barnes.
Wangaratta	Hon. J. Bowser (Speaker).
Waranga	Hon. J. Gordon.
Warrenheip	Hon. E. J. Hogan.
Warrnambool	J. D. Deany.
Williamstown	Hon. J. Lemmon.

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: W. R. Alexander, J.P.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Private Bills: T. R. Gilchrist.

Clerk of Committees and Serjeant-at-Arms: W. R. Barstow, J.P.

Clerk of the Papers: F. E. Wanke.

Reader and Clerk of the Record: G. R. Webb.

Accountant and Assistant Clerk of Committees: P. P. Conlan.

Chief Hansard Reporter: W. T. Corlett.

Librarian (Acting): J. A. Finnie.

FOREIGN CONSULS.

The following is a return of Consuls-General and Consuls for Victoria of foreign countries:—

CONSULS-GENERAL.

Country.	Name.
Argentina	Bartoli, U. A.
China	Onei Tze-King.
Colombia	Lyle, M.
Germany	Busing, Dr. Hans.
Honduras	Mattel, Senor Don Rafael Medina (Hon.).
Norway	Arentz, E. K. B.
Swiss Confederation	Stahel, G. (Hon.).
United States	Blake, M.

CONSULS.

Austria	Hauser, L. (Hon.).
Belgium	Vaanderkelen, R.
Chili	Le Plastrier, C. W.
Denmark	Holdenson, P. J.
France	Turek, R.
Greece	Maniachi, A. V. (Hon.).
Guatemala	De Bavay, Auguste.
Italy	Grossardi, Commendatore A.
Japan	Black, P. J. (Acting).
Mexico	McKinley, A. (Hon.).
Netherlands	Wright, F. H. (Hon.).
Nicaragua	Medina, R.
Norway	Schreuder, A. T. (Hon.).
Panama	Kelson, V. J. (Acting).
Peru	Vargas, Senor L. A.
Portugal	Thomson, J. (Hon.).
Salvador	Karagheusian, V. N. T. (Hon.).
Spain	Montero y de Madrazo, Senor Don J.
"	Cave, H. (Hon.).
Sweden	Waern, J. D.
United States	Anderson, N. L.
Uruguay	Benjamin, L. S. (Hon.).

VICE-CONSULS.

Argentina	Mackay, S.
Brazil, United States of	Sheppard, H. A.
Denmark	Blechingberg, E.
"	Belcher, E. N. (Geelong).
Finland	Sleigh, H. C. (Hon.).
Germany	Rohde, H. W.
Italy	Vitali, L. B. (Hon.).
Norway	Howard, J. (Hon.).
Paraguay	Fraser, W. S.
United States	Coates, H. E.
"	Moran, J. E.

TRADE COMMISSIONERS.

The following Trade Commissioners have been appointed by the countries mentioned to represent them in Victoria :—

Representing—

United Kingdom	Dalton, R. A.
Canada	Ross, D. H.
New Zealand	Manson, H. J.
United States	Babbitt, E. G. (Commissioner).
	Pauly, E. G. (Assistant Commissioner).

FINANCE.

State
Finance.

Under the Constitution Act the revenues of the State are payable into Consolidated Revenue, but certain of these revenues have been hypothecated by various Acts of Parliament for specified purposes, and are payable into special accounts or funds kept at the State Treasury. Apart from the special funds (shown below) the financial transactions are concerned with one or other of three Funds, viz.:—(a) Consolidated Revenue Fund, (b) Trust Funds, and (c) Loan Funds. The Treasurer's Finance Statement of revenue and expenditure relates to the Consolidated Revenue Fund, but in the succeeding tables the public revenue of certain special funds or accounts is included. Payments from Consolidated Revenue are made either under the authority of an Annual Appropriation Act passed by the Legislature, or by a permanent appropriation under a Special Act. The special appropriations represent services such as interest on the public debt, contributions to the redemption funds, the salaries of the Governor, the Judges and some other officials, State pensions, endowments to municipalities, etc. The expenditure under special appropriations during the year 1923-24 amounted to £7,084,392.

Below is given a concise statement of the special funds (excluding Redemption and Sinking funds) kept at the Treasury:—

SPECIAL FUNDS (EXCLUDING SINKING FUNDS) KEPT AT THE TREASURY.

Fund,	Act No.	Remarks.
The Assurance Fund	2740, sec. 239	Established for the purpose of assuring and indemnifying the Government in granting a clear title on land brought under the Transfer of Land Act. A contribution of ¼d. in the £ is levied on all lands brought under the Act.
The Closer Settlements Fund	2629	Created for the purposes of civilian closer settlement. All moneys received under the Closer Settlement Acts, except proceeds of loans raised by the Government, are paid into this Fund. The receipts consist chiefly of amounts paid by settlers as instalments of principal and interest in respect of land and advances granted to them. Payments from the Fund are made for redemption of loans raised under the Closer Settlement Acts by the Government, interest on such loans, and administration expenses. Power is given also to apply the Fund to payments for the purchase of land, advances to settlers, and improvement of land.

SPECIAL FUNDS (EXCLUDING SINKING FUNDS) KEPT AT THE TREASURY
—continued.

Fund.	Act No.	Remarks.
The Discharged Soldiers Settlement Fund	2916	Functions similarly to the Closer Settlements Fund except that it relates to settlement of discharged soldiers.
The Discharged Soldiers Concessions Fund	2988	Established to meet concessions granted under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts. The soldiers are allowed to occupy land for the first three years free of charge, and interest at the rate of 5 per cent. only is charged on the cost of the land and advances, the Government having raised loans for the purposes of the Acts at a higher rate. The cost of the concessions is made good to the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Fund by proceeds of loans raised by the Government, and these loans are redeemed by payments from the Concessions Fund. The State Government contributes annually the sum of £75,000 to the Fund, and the Commonwealth Government, for a period of five years in each instance, pays annually to the Fund an amount equal to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on loan moneys made available by it to the State for Discharged Soldiers Settlement.
The Country Roads Board Fund	2635	<p>Established for the maintenance of main roads. This account is credited with all moneys paid to the Treasurer by any municipality in respect of permanent works and the maintenance of main roads; amounts received by the Board under the provisions of the Country Roads Act; annual Government subsidy of £50,000; all fees and fines, less the cost of collection, paid under the <i>Motor Car Act 1915</i>; fees, less the cost of collection, received by the Crown in respect of unused roads and water frontages under part 39 of the <i>Local Government Act 1915</i>, and all moneys which, as provided by Sections 481 and 485 of the said Act, are to be paid into the said Fund; and fees paid on the registration or renewal of registration of traction engines. The money to the credit of the Fund is applied as follows:—</p> <p>(a) 6 per cent. per annum on the amount due by the municipalities in respect of permanent works is applied in payment of interest on half the amount borrowed under the provisions of the Country Roads Act at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, the balance being paid into a Sinking Fund until half the amount borrowed is paid off.</p> <p>(b) The balance, after the payment of the said 6 per cent., is applied in payment of the cost of maintenance of main roads, and in payment of any liabilities incurred by the Board under the provisions of the Act.</p>

SPECIAL FUNDS (EXCLUDING SINKING FUNDS) KEPT AT THE TREASURY
—continued.

Fund.	Act No.	Remarks.
Developmental Railways Account	2640	Established for the construction of developmental railways. The chief source of revenue is the proceeds of the sale of lands by auction, exclusive of Mallee lands, and interest paid by municipalities under the Developmental Roads Act 2944. The Fund is required to pay the interest on the Developmental Roads liability under Act No. 2944.
Licensing Fund	2683 and various amendments	Is controlled by the Licences Reduction Board. All the State licence fees in connexion with the sale and manufacture of liquor, together with Court fees, fines, and forfeitures under the Licensing Act, constitute the revenue. The expenditure consists of:— (a) The administration expenses of the Board; (b) Allowances to and expenses of Licensing Inspectors, Licensing Prosecutions, and Clerks of Licensing Courts; (c) Compensation for licences taken away or surrendered; (d) Annual statutory payments to specified municipalities; and (e) Annual transfer of £23,000 to the Police Superannuation Fund. The 1922 Act provides for an annual increment in the Fund of £20,000. Any surplus over and above this increment is transferred on 30th June to Consolidated Revenue.
Police Superannuation Fund	2709	Established to pay superannuation allowances and gratuities, &c., to members of the Police Force who joined it prior to 25th November, 1902. The revenue consists of an annual subsidy of £2,000, an annual transfer of £23,000 from the Licensing Fund, a deduction of 2½ per cent. from the pay of members, and 50 per cent. of the fines inflicted in Courts of Petty Sessions; should the foregoing prove insufficient, the deficiency is provided from Consolidated Revenue. In 1923–24 the amount so provided was £64,500.
Police Pensions Fund	3316	Established to provide pensions, &c., for all members of the Police Force not already entitled to them, i.e., those who joined it after 25th November, 1902. The revenue is derived from an annual payment of £50,000 from Consolidated Revenue, a deduction of 2½ per cent. from the pay of members, interest on surplus moneys invested, and such additional sum as may be paid into the Fund from Consolidated Revenue to ensure its solvency.

SPECIAL FUNDS (EXCLUDING SINKING FUNDS) KEPT AT THE TREASURY
—continued.

Fund.	Act No.	Remarks.
The Port Phillip Pilot Sick and Superannuation Fund	2688	Established to provide pensions for pilots. It is maintained by deductions from pilots' earnings and the annual income derived from investment of the moneys belonging to the Fund. There is no contribution from the Government.
The State Accident Insurance Fund	2496	Receives and disburses all moneys (including expenses of administration) on account of the State Accident Insurance Office, which conducts Workers' Compensation Insurance. The General Reserve is invested in Victorian Stock.
Mallee Land Account	2676	The revenue of this Fund is derived from land sales, rents, &c., in the Mallee. The total revenue can only be used for redemption of Victorian Stock or Debentures. It is thus a Sinking Fund, and is referred to in this connexion on page 90.
The Railway Accident and Fire Insurance Fund	2716	This Fund was established as a reserve to meet the cost incurred by the Railways Department in connexion with:—(a) The injury or death of any person by reason of an accident due to the neglect or default of the Department; (b) Compensation to employees injured on duty; (c) Damage to property by fire; and (d) Damage to or loss of goods while in the possession of the Department for transportation. The Fund is regularly credited with an amount equal to ten shillings per centum of the railway Revenue, subject to the condition that the amount at the credit of the Fund shall not exceed £100,000.

Under the Local Government Act the municipalities have power to levy rates, and are assisted with grants by the State Government. Particulars regarding municipal finance are given in another section of the *Year-Book*. Allied to the municipalities are the Boards and Trusts which control water supply, irrigation, and sewerage, and have rating powers in connexion therewith. There are also the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board and the Country Fire Brigades

Board, which are concerned with fire extinction in the metropolis and urban districts, and derive their revenues from the State Government, the Municipalities, and Insurance Companies; and the Melbourne and Geelong Harbour Trusts, which are intrusted with the management of those respective ports, and derive their revenues mainly from wharfage rates.

A summary of the transactions for the financial year 1923-24 in the Consolidated Revenue Fund and in the special funds referred to above gives the following result :—

	£	£
Revenue deficit at 30th June, 1923 .. ..	..	1,181,884
Revenue	23,075,968	
Expenditure	23,050,968	
	<hr/>	
Surplus for the year	25,000*	
Reduction of deficit under Surplus Revenue Act 3294	234,802	
	<hr/>	
		259,802
	<hr/>	
Revenue deficit at 30th June, 1924 .. ..	..	922,082
	<hr/>	

* In effect the true surplus was £125,000, as an additional amount of £100,000 which had been appropriated to "Revenue Services" was afterwards applied to the reduction of the deficit.

The Revenue and Expenditure Account is a statement of cash transactions, the revenue representing actual receipts less refunds, and the expenditure actual payments made during the year. The accumulated revenue deficiency had its beginning in the year 1890-91, when it amounted to £206,843, and in the course of the next five years it was added to year by year, until it reached its greatest magnitude (£2,711,436) on 30th June, 1896. After that date it was steadily reduced year by year, with one or two exceptions, to £251,652 on 30th June, 1914; but during 1914-15, under conditions brought about by the war and a serious drought, it was increased to £1,429,603, and it was further increased in the following year to £1,642,091. During each of the last eight years the deficit has been reduced, and, on 30th June, 1924, it was £922,082. Under the provisions of Act No. 3341 passed on 21st May, 1924, the latter amount has been further reduced by £100,000, leaving a deficit of £822,082 on 31st December, 1924.

Under the system of accounts adopted in Victoria, the financial year usually ends with an apparent surplus, which, however, is devoted to further expenditure, the final result being an exact balance between revenue and expenditure. The accounts for 1923-24, according to the Treasurer's Finance Statement, show an apparent surplus of £232,216, of which £100,000 has since been appropriated to reduction of revenue deficit, £44,000 for the purchase of the Caulfield Hospital, £20,000 towards the erection of a new Sanatorium at Mont Park, £47,000 for improvements to hospitals for the insane, and £21,216 for other public works.

The differences between the amounts of revenue and expenditure shown above and those given in the Treasurer's Finance Statement arise from the use of a different method of classification for statistical purposes, the particulars of which for 1923-24 are as follows :—

	Public Revenue.	Public Expenditure.
	£	£
Total according to Treasurer's Finance Statement ..	22,674,930	22,442,714
<i>Add public revenue of the following funds—</i>		
Mallee Land Account—appropriated to Loan		
Redemption purposes	88,626	88,626
Country Roads Board Fund	243,523	243,523
Licensing Fund*	164,431	164,431
Police Superannuation Fund	11,372	11,372
Assurance Fund	2,086	2,086
Surplus Revenue appropriated to "Revenue Services" .. ..	..	232,216
<i>Deduct—</i>		
Appropriation to reduction of deficit .. ..	..	25,000
Loss on non-paying railways	109,000	109,000
Total	23,075,968	23,050,968

* Excluding £178,373 transferred to Revenue under Section 39 of Act No. 3259.

Compiled on the above basis, the revenue and expenditure of the State for the last ten years are shown in the next statement :—

STATE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE : 1914-15 TO 1923-24.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£		£	£
1915 ..	10,529,017	11,706,968	1920 ..	15,866,184	15,752,459
1916 ..	11,470,875	11,683,363	1921 ..	19,054,475	18,941,698
1917 ..	11,813,879	11,795,295	1922 ..	20,357,733	20,297,279
1918 ..	12,672,787	12,631,169	1923 ..	21,634,677	21,611,309
1919 ..	13,044,088	12,979,407	1924 ..	23,075,968	23,050,968

The expenditure in this statement includes considerable sums appropriated to pay off liabilities of former years, and to form

sinking funds to meet outstanding loans. Such appropriations and the amount of revenue applied in reduction of the accumulated deficiency are detailed in the succeeding table.

REVENUE DEVOTED TO PAYING OFF OLD LIABILITIES,
ETC., 1914-15 TO 1923-24.

Year ended 30th June—	ORDINARY REVENUE APPROPRIATED.			Total.
	In reduction of the accumulated revenue deficiency of former years.	In redemption of loans raised in anticipation of revenue.	Towards Redemption Funds to meet outstanding loans.	
	£	£	£	£
1915 ..	17,519	..	211,117	228,636
1916 ..	20,327	..	266,599	286,926
1917 ..	18,584	..	296,345	314,929
1918 ..	16,618	25,000	299,578	341,196
1919 ..	14,681	50,000	301,466	366,147
1920 ..	13,725	100,000	359,100	472,825
1921 ..	12,777	100,000	508,344	621,121
1922 ..	60,454	25,000	402,724	488,178
1923 ..	33,170	354,147*	421,166	808,483
1924 ..	25,000	100,000	484,825	609,825
Total (10 years)	232,855	754,147	3,551,264	4,538,266

* Including £120,148 to recoup the Developmental Railways Account.

In addition to the above appropriations there were surpluses in the financial years 1917-18, 1918-19, 1919-20, 1920-21, and 1923-24, which were applied towards payment for public works or to other purposes of a public nature.

Heads of
State Revenue.

Details of the sources of the revenue for the last five financial years are given in the following statement :—

HEADS OF STATE REVENUE, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Heads of Revenue.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£	£	£
Federal Government	1,847,085	1,878,449	1,918,967	1,969,772	2,014,746
State Taxation—					
Income Tax ..	915,551	1,591,198	1,443,209	1,514,256	1,702,483
Stamp Duties ..	820,618	928,367	930,859	1,116,077	1,177,614
Probate and Suc- cession Duties ..	881,423	702,468	706,181	697,482	798,315
Land Tax ..	314,217	331,756	372,060	392,594	412,165
Licences ..	213,204	274,020	320,127	335,402	363,988
Other ..	14,754	19,024	18,738	21,235	21,593
Public Works and Services—					
Railways ..	8,081,947	9,848,061	10,751,173	11,289,956	11,922,195
Water Supply ..	384,280	406,666	415,540	447,459	443,384
Harbour Trusts, Wharfage, &c.	113,049	145,938	156,747	199,379	207,692
State Coal Mine ..	433,977	416,892	591,380	468,855	568,897
State Electricity Commission ..	..	..	58,111	253,288	255,195
Interest on proper- ties transferred to Commonwealth	82,664	103,789	86,013	80,378	80,844
Beet Sugar Works	55,321	68,670	52,624	74,678	92,231
Brown Coal Sales	95,618	85,581	55,543	57,081	61,921
Other ..	46,698	65,925	82,119	99,082	109,598
Land—					
Sales ..	202,517	333,083	200,346	176,476	195,916
Rents ..	175,116	205,648	232,876	243,887	251,302
Interest, &c. ..	187,731	194,922	173,218	148,890	184,226
Other Sources—					
Interest—Discharged So diers Settlement Acts ..	102,785	463,878	827,330	1,013,885	1,113,158
Fees, Fines, &c. ..	293,281	317,968	332,497	424,345	486,961
Tramways Act 2995 (Sec. 88) ..	56,783	84,355	98,107	93,010	92,998
Sale of Books and Documents (Govt. Printer) ..	72,380	82,697	90,084	82,504	83,531
Agriculture Depart- ment ..	181,753	100,715	72,505	78,017	73,282
Miscellaneous ..	293,432	404,405	371,379	356,689	361,733
Total ..	15,866,184	19,054,475	20,357,733	21,634,677	23,075,968
Per Head of Popula- tion ..	£ s. d. 10 11 1	£ s. d. 12 9 5	£ s. d. 13 2 6	£ s. d. 13 12 1	£ s. d. 14 3 11

The revenue for 1923-24 represents an increase of £1,441,291 on that for the previous year. The chief increases were under the following headings:—Railways, £632,239; State Taxation, £399,112; State Coal Mine, £100,042, and Interest—Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts, £99,273. The payments to the State by the Federal Government during the last fourteen years have been computed on the basis of a fixed payment of 25s.* per head of population in the State, whereas in preceding years the Federal Government paid over to the State at least three-fourths of the net revenue from Customs and Excise duties.

STATE EXPENDITURE.

The following table shows for the last five years the principal heads of expenditure from State Revenue:—

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE FROM STATE REVENUE: 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Heads of Expenditure.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>General Government.</i>					
Governor ..	6,915	8,777	10,064	10,029	9,694
Parliament and Ministry ..	74,402	103,494	106,147	96,047	110,028
Civil Establishment	349,029	372,560	393,683	396,149	450,254
Pensions and Gratuities† ..	443,726	489,636	503,065	534,009	580,181
<i>Law, Order, and Protection.</i>					
Judicial and Legal ..	194,149	226,608	227,303	233,169	253,285
Police ..	462,303	533,920	533,986	540,037	663,319
Penal Establishments and Gaols ..	61,947	75,981	74,161	80,363	101,122
<i>Education, &c.</i>					
State Schools, &c. ..	1,324,595	1,659,663	1,755,834	1,755,395	1,819,852
Technical Schools ..	69,661	92,001	100,693	182,495	217,539
University ..	31,500	37,975	40,175	49,975	56,450
Libraries, &c. ..	27,672	33,500	34,108	36,261	38,367
Art and Science ..	8,976	9,305	9,630	7,437	7,370
<i>Recreation and Health.</i>					
Parks, Gardens, and Public Resorts ..	31,565	36,939	29,341	26,637	31,843
Public Health ..	190,844	80,848	97,599	93,995	93,878
Charitable Institutions, &c. ..	666,697	818,539	829,514	832,882	890,840

* This is subject to a slight reduction on account of a special payment to Western Australia. The reduction in 1923-24 was about 2½d. per head of population. See *Year-Book* 1915-16, page 142.

† For details, see page 71.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE FROM STATE REVENUE: 1919-20 TO
1923-24—continued.

Heads of Expenditure.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
<i>Crown Lands, &c.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Crown Lands ..	167,818	207,760	221,565	236,022	268,216
Agriculture and Stock	266,314	244,968	275,107	305,832	347,502
Mining	587,031	538,855	678,785	559,465	657,520
<i>Public Works.</i>					
Railways	6,042,136	7,857,380	8,117,070	8,275,909	8,818,314
Water Supply ..	154,534	165,145	185,656	215,110	219,105
Harbours, Rivers, and Lights	81,436	93,929	98,984	91,438	97,071
Roads and Bridges ..	3,930	6,068	16,948	5,371	6,900
Country Roads Board	158,288	170,638	191,424	229,343	293,523
State Electricity Commission .. ..	..	32,015	112,608	144,193	14,826
Municipal Endow- ment, &c.*	136,928	118,214	120,081	119,542	122,384
Works and Buildings, n.e.i.	61,610	56,675	65,476	85,588	103,350
Interest and Expenses of Public Debt ..	3,249,393	3,882,095	4,579,665	5,355,575	5,669,970
Interest on Advances from Savings Banks	8,212	7,975	6,737	1,385	..
Redemption Funds, &c.	359,100	508,344	402,724	421,166	484,825
Discharged Soldiers Concessions Fund	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
<i>Other Expenditure.</i>					
Mint Subsidy ..	29,778	40,000	33,500	30,000	25,000
Fire Brigades ..	37,164	45,615	48,909	48,215	53,433
Immigration ..	6,870	11,885	18,135	18,896	27,378
Licences Reduction Board, including Compensation ..	69,617	91,063	72,210	60,730	56,168
Railway passes to Blind and Incapaci- tated Soldiers ..	117,345	10,428	5,325	5,043	7,253
Surplus Revenue ap- propriated to "Re- venue Services" ..	103,716	56,936	..	363,949	232,216
Miscellaneous ..	92,258	140,964	226,067	88,657	146,992
Total	15,752,459	18,941,698	20,297,279	21,611,309	23,050,968
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Per Head of Population	10 9 7	12 7 11	13 1 9	13 11 9	14 3 8

* Including annual payment from Licensing Fund.

Compared with the previous year the ordinary expenditure of the State for 1923-24 showed an increase of £1,439,659. The heads of expenditure showing the largest increases were—Railways, £542,405;

Interest and Expenses of Public Debt, £312,478; Police, £123,282; Education, £108,015; and Mining, £98,055. The items showing the largest decreases were—Appropriation of Surplus Revenue, £131,733; and State Electricity Commission, £129,367.

In regard to the surpluses of various years which are included in the preceding table under the item "Surplus Revenue Expenditure. Revenue Appropriated to Revenue Services" it is interesting to note to what purposes the money so appropriated was applied in subsequent years. Up to 30th June, 1924, the total amount appropriated (exclusive of the 1923-24 surplus, i.e., £232,216) was £2,804,091, of which all but £3,730 had been expended. The following table shows the details of such expenditure for each of the last four years and the total up to 30th June, 1924:—

SURPLUS REVENUE EXPENDITURE.

Service.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	Total to 30th June, 1924.
	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Services—					
Railways .. ..	..	..	..	..	250,696
Other .. ..	..	..	..	..	64,170
Revenue Services—					
Railways	37,098	..	..	..	497,729
Education—					
State schools	18,908	1,133	6,935	..	340,692
Other	14,689	45,629	12,914	4	136,812
Crown Lands (including reclamation, drainage, &c.)	14,874	26	..	..	149,480
Harbours, rivers, and lights	413	..	..	..	117,293
Roads and bridges	4,019	3,049	1,657	753	112,230
Railway salaries (arrears) .. ..	..	70,846	1,195	1,455	73,496
Public Health	2,479	1,151	132	6	34,627
Charitable Institutions .. ..	..	15,351	2,975	1,000	106,226
Redemption of Treasury Bonds and Unfunded Debt	100,000	25,000	..	234,802	503,802
Developmental Railways Account—Refund .. ..	..	..	..	129,148	129,148
Miscellaneous	41,619	2,176	17,307	2,064	283,960
Total	234,099	164,361	43,115	369,232	2,800,361

INCOME TAX.

State Income Tax.

An income tax was first imposed in Victoria in 1895, and, although originally fixed for a period of three years, it has, with certain amendments and alterations, been retained and continued from year to year until the present time. Incomes assessed

for tax in any year are those earned, derived, or received in Victoria in the preceding year, and are divided into two classes, viz. :— (1) those derived from personal exertion, and (2) those derived from property. The former consist of salaries, wages, stipends, fees, commissions, bonuses, pensions, superannuation or retiring allowances earned in or derived from Victoria, and all incomes arising or accruing from any profession, trade, or business carried on in Victoria; whilst the latter comprise incomes from all other sources. In computing the taxable income certain deductions are allowed from the assessable income, the principal of which are outgoings and losses incurred in the production of the income, life assurance premiums not exceeding £50, and calls or contributions actually paid into any mining company registered under the *Companies Act* 1915, or to any company in liquidation.

For each of the years 1918-19 to 1922-23 the minimum income subject to tax was £201, and the exemption allowed on incomes between £201 and £500 was £150. No exemption was allowed on incomes exceeding £500 or to companies. The rate of tax for individuals on the amount of taxable income from personal exertion up to but not exceeding £500 was 3d. in the £. Where the taxable income exceeded £500 the rates on incomes from personal exertion were 4d. for every £ of the taxable amount thereof up to £500, 5d. for every £ between £501 and £1,000, 6d. for every £ between £1,001 and £1,500, and 7d. for every £ over £1,500. The rates on incomes from property were respectively double the rates on incomes from personal exertion. In the case of life assurance companies the tax was 12d. in the £ on 30 per cent. of the premium income from ordinary business and on 15 per cent. of that from industrial business. In the case of mining companies the tax was 12d. in the £ on the total amount of dividends declared and debenture interest paid. In the case of other companies liable to tax the rate was 12d. in the £ on the profits.

Taxpayers whose incomes did not exceed £800 per annum were allowed the following deductions from their incomes for the years 1921-22 and 1922-23 :—(a) £30 in respect of each child under 16 years of age; (b) certain expenses during illness; (c) friendly society contributions; and (d) funeral and burial expenses not exceeding £20.

The amendments made by the *Income Tax Act* 1924, which are applicable to incomes for the year 1923-24, are shown on page 98.

For the purpose of simplifying the collection of income tax, the *Income Tax Amendment Act* 1923 was passed on 22nd December, 1923. This Act provides that the Victorian Income Tax Department shall be the collecting authority for the income tax payable in the State under Commonwealth law. In cases where income is received in two or more States, no alteration has been made—the tax being assessed and collected by the Central Office of the Commonwealth Income Tax Department.

In previous issues of this part the particulars relating to income tax assessments, &c., have been taken from the Income Tax Report, which only gives an analysis as at the 30th June of each year.

In the following table the figures have been amended, and they now represent complete details of the assessments on incomes for each of the five years specified :—

INCOME TAX ASSESSMENTS.

	On Incomes of—				
	1918-19.	1919 20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
Number of Assessments:					
Individuals ..	61,620	89,584	132,859	123,768	153,519
Companies ..	1,781	1,742	2,026	2,265	2,678
Total, Distinct Taxpayers ..	63,401	91,326	134,885	126,033	156,197
Taxable Incomes of previous year:					£
Individuals ..		Not available			46,227,420
Companies ..					16,122,969
Total ..	..	..	..	..	62,350,389
Tax payable:	£	£	£	£	£
Individuals ..	475,660	749,204	755,366	759,204	936,515
Companies ..	481,344	722,817	579,995	699,840	805,996
Total* ..	957,004	1,472,021	1,335,361	1,459,044	1,742,511
Per taxpayer:	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Individuals ..	7 14 5	8 7 3	5 13 8	6 2 8	6 2 0
Companies ..	270 5 4	414 18 8	286 5 6	308 19 7	300 19 4
Average tax payable in the £ on taxable incomes by—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Individuals ..		Not available			4.86
Companies ..	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00

* For actual collections received, see page 60.

The total net incomes of taxpayers in 1922-23, who were assessed to pay tax, amounted to £81,523,689, but, as 127,762 taxpayers were allowed the £150 exemption, the amount available for taxation was £62,359,389.

The total number of individuals and companies who paid tax on their incomes for 1922-23 is detailed, under specified grades of taxable income, in the following table :—

TOTAL NUMBER OF TAXPAYERS (1922-23 INCOMES).

Taxable Incomes.	Individuals.				Companies.	Grand Total.
	Personal Exertion.	Property.	Combined Personal and Property.	Total.		
£						
Not exceeding 100	54,779	1,969	287	57,035	382	57,417
101- 200	45,733	2,600	734	49,067	206	49,273
201- 350	18,861	1,725	1,139	21,725	227	21,952
351- 500	5	..	5	10	155	165
501- 700	4,411	956	5,302	10,669	152	10,821
701-1,000	2,324	616	3,343	6,283	190	6,473
1,001-1,200	810	224	1,334	2,368	101	2,469
1,201-1,500	710	173	1,210	2,093	118	2,211
1,501-2,000	547	170	1,015	1,732	155	1,887
2,001-2,400	191	56	508	755	97	852
2,401-3,000	171	85	387	643	116	759
3,001-4,000	121	52	375	548	125	673
4,001-5,000	52	19	176	247	101	348
5,001-6,000	30	10	78	118	79	197
6,001-7,400	9	13	74	96	75	171
7,401 and over ..	29	13	88	130	399	529
Total ..	128,783	8,681	16,055	153,519	2,678	156,197

Of the individual taxpayers, 83·9 per cent. obtained their incomes wholly from personal exertion, 5·6 per cent. from property, and 10·5 per cent. from personal exertion and property combined. Sixty-nine per cent. of the individual taxpayers were in receipt of taxable incomes not exceeding £200, but the tax paid by them amounted to only 15 per cent. of the total for individuals.

In the succeeding statement particulars of the sources of taxable incomes for 1922-23 are arranged in order of groups of taxable incomes :—

TAXABLE INCOMES (1922-23 INCOMES).

Taxable Incomes.	Individuals.				Companies.	Grand Total.
	Personal Exertion.	Property.	Combined Personal and Property.	Total.		
£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Not exceeding 100	4,119,498	147,140	28,322	4,294,960	14,993	4,309,953
101 - 200	6,346,992	374,763	110,778	6,832,533	31,634	6,864,167
201 - 350	4,941,158	463,039	311,216	5,715,413	62,078	5,777,491
351 - 500	1,890	..	2,142	4,032	67,323	71,355
501 - 700	2,571,845	557,138	3,104,823	6,233,806	90,927	6,324,733
701 - 1,000	1,955,125	514,286	2,813,025	5,282,436	159,979	5,442,415
1,001 - 1,200	885,084	244,450	1,459,681	2,589,215	120,604	2,709,819
1,201 - 1,500	953,294	230,378	1,616,871	2,800,543	149,587	2,950,130
1,501 - 2,000	945,736	292,477	1,741,426	2,979,639	266,856	3,246,495
2,001 - 2,400	415,746	123,700	1,108,557	1,648,003	213,202	1,861,205
2,401 - 3,000	457,804	228,770	1,031,686	1,718,260	309,487	2,027,747
3,001 - 4,000	420,813	181,259	1,294,361	1,896,433	433,770	2,330,203
4,001 - 5,000	227,231	82,559	775,287	1,085,077	452,517	1,537,594
5,001 - 6,000	163,910	53,981	426,429	644,320	434,547	1,078,867
6,001 - 7,400	61,249	88,088	490,713	640,050	497,533	1,137,583
7,401 and over ..	331,695	274,706	1,256,299	1,862,700	12,817,932	14,680,632
Total ..	24,799,070	3,856,734	17,571,616	46,227,420	16,122,969	62,350,389

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The division showing the highest amount of taxable income of individuals is that from £101 to £200; it is followed closely by that from £501 to £700. Fifty per cent. of the taxable income of individuals was earned by persons in receipt of taxable incomes not exceeding £700. The great bulk of the taxable income of companies was earned by a few of the larger ones—399, which were in receipt of £7,401 and upwards, having had a taxable income representing 79 per cent. of the total for all companies.

The complete figures relating to the tax payable on the 1922-23 incomes are set out hereunder :—

TAX PAYABLE ON 1922-23 INCOMES.

Taxable Incomes.	Individuals.				Companies.	Grand Total.
	Personal Exertion.	Property.	Combined Personal and Property.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Not exceeding 100	51,288	3,685	512	55,485	742	56,227
101 - 200	78,299	9,340	1,929	89,568	1,577	91,145
201 - 350	59,706	11,588	5,016	76,310	3,074	79,384
351 - 500	23	..	36	59	3,352	3,411
501 - 700	43,057	19,198	57,687	119,942	4,544	124,486
701 - 1,000	35,081	18,871	55,962	109,914	7,914	117,828
1,001 - 1,200	16,758	9,394	30,718	56,870	5,581	62,451
1,201 - 1,500	19,238	9,311	35,750	64,299	7,929	72,228
1,501 - 2,000	20,666	12,802	41,413	74,881	13,343	88,224
2,001 - 2,400	9,766	5,815	28,451	44,032	10,660	54,692
2,401 - 3,000	11,211	11,185	27,559	49,955	15,474	65,429
3,001 - 4,000	10,763	9,274	35,981	56,018	21,676	77,694
4,001 - 5,000	5,963	4,338	22,325	32,626	22,625	55,251
5,001 - 6,000	4,405	2,898	12,325	19,628	21,728	41,356
6,001 - 7,400	1,687	4,826	15,345	21,858	24,877	46,735
7,401 and over ..	9,288	15,540	40,242	65,070	640,900	705,970
Total ..	377,199	148,065	411,251	936,515	805,996	1,742,511

Companies with taxable incomes of £7,401 and over were assessed for an amount which represented 37 per cent. of the total tax payable ; for all companies the proportion was 46 per cent. The tax payable by persons in the group £501 to £1,000 was 25 per cent. of the total for individuals. Exclusive of the amount payable by companies, 40 per cent. of the tax payable was derived from personal exertion, 16 per cent. from property, and 44 per cent. from personal exertion and property combined.

In addition to the State Income Tax there is a Commonwealth Income Tax, which was first imposed on incomes earned in the financial year 1914-15. The tax collected by the Commonwealth Government, in the year 1923-24, amounted to £11,057,555, and it is estimated that the payments made on Victorian income would be about £2,986,000.

LAND TAX.

State Land Tax.

The State Land Tax Act of 1915 provides for a tax on the unimproved value of land and for the assessment of land and other purposes. Unimproved value for the purposes of this Act means the sum which might be expected to be realized at the time of valuation if the land were offered for sale on such terms as a seller might in ordinary circumstances be expected to require, and assuming that the improvements (if any) had not been made. The nature of the

taxation is a duty upon land for every pound sterling of the unimproved value thereof, as assessed under the Act, at a rate declared for each year by Act of Parliament. Previously to 1923 the rate of tax was one halfpenny on every pound sterling of the unimproved value of all land having an unimproved value exceeding £250, but since the year mentioned an increased amount has been payable—a super-tax of 5 per cent. having been added to the old rate. No tax is chargeable when the total unimproved value of all lands owned does not exceed £250. Where the assessed unimproved value exceeds the amount of exemption (£250) the exemption diminishes at the rate of £1 for every £1 of such excess, so as to leave no exemption when the unimproved value amounts to, or exceeds £500.

The Assessment Roll on 31st December of each of the last five years showed the following particulars :—

			Taxpayers.			Net Tax Payable.
			No.			£
1920	..	..	94,463	..	..	317,174
1921	..	..	103,237	..	..	335,566
1922	..	..	108,269	..	..	353,870
1923	..	..	114,614	..	..	392,434
1924	..	..	120,107	..	..	415,693

Common-wealth Land Tax. In addition to the State Land Tax there is upon the lands in the State a Commonwealth Land Tax, which was assented to on 17th November, 1910. The following particulars of land tax assessment for Victoria for the financial year 1922-23 have been furnished by the Federal Commissioner of Land Tax. The estates assessed numbered 5,253, of which 4,789 belonged to resident and 464 to absentee taxpayers. The unimproved value of these estates, as ascertained by the Department, was £53,190,652, comprising town land and country land of the following respective values :—£20,950,526 and £32,240,126. The tax payable was £322,939. In addition there were 1851 Central Office taxpayers who owned land in more than one State. The Victorian land owned by these taxpayers was valued at £9,561,314 unimproved value, on which a tax of £164,664 was payable.

RAILWAY REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Victorian Railways, financial results. A summary of the results of the working of the Victorian Railways during the last five years is given in the appended statement. The figures have been taken from the Railway Report and represent the actual business done each year, not the receipts and payments brought to account by the Treasury within the year. They include particulars of the St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Street Tramways.

RAILWAY BALANCES : 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Item.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross Revenue ..	8,287,063	9,851,909	10,857,853	11,413,782	12,025,987
Working Expenses ..	6,112,822	7,911,834	8,092,565	8,238,744	8,775,514
Pensions, Gratuities, &c. ..	152,932	182,036	194,581	203,470	206,366
Net Receipts ..	2,021,309	1,758,039	2,570,707	2,971,568	3,043,107
Interest on Cost of Construction ..	2,234,202	2,409,674	2,589,816	2,951,385	3,015,455
Surplus (+) or Deficit (-)	- 212,893	- 651,635	- 19,109	+ 20,183	+ 27,652*

* Subject to deduction of an amount of £136,417 which has been written off. This represents a loss on non-paying lines in previous years. The net result is, therefore, a deficit of £108,765.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT AND FIRE INSURANCE FUND.

The establishment of a permanent fund to be kept at the Treasury, and called the Railway Accident and Fire Insurance Fund, was effected by provision in the *Railways Act 1907* (now the *Railways Act 1915*). This provision requires the Railways Commissioners to pay into such fund the sum of 10s. for every £100 sterling of the revenue of the Victorian Railways until the fund amounts to £100,000, at which amount it is to be maintained. During the year ended 30th June, 1924, the receipts of the fund amounted to £39,141, whilst the payments made therefrom were £5,595 for compensation, damages, costs, &c., to persons other than employees injured; £11,469 as compensation on account of injuries to or deaths of employees; and £20,959 as compensation for goods or parcels lost, and for damages caused by fire, &c. The balance at the credit of the Fund on 30th June, 1924, was £96,859.

PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES.

The bestowal of pensions or superannuation allowances was abolished on 24th December, 1881, in the case of persons, except Supreme Court Judges, police, and railway employees, entering the Public Service after that date. Pensions to railway employees were abolished on 1st November, 1883.

During the year 1923-24, the Government expended on pensions, gratuities, etc., the sum of £580,181. Of this amount, £441,699 was spent on ex-public servants who had contributed nothing towards their pensions. The remainder represents payments from State revenue to the Police Superannuation Fund and the Police Pensions Fund. The following table gives details of the expenditure for the year 1923-24:—

Cost of
Pensions and
Gratuities.

**GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON PENSIONS,
GRATUITIES, ETC., 1923-24.**

Division of Service.	Special Appropriations.		Annual Votes.		Total.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£		£
Education Department	1,043	129,175	7	243	1,050	129,418
Railways	1,515	194,833	99	5,743	1,614	200,576
Defence	3	229	..	..	3	229
Lunacy	24	2,942	..	..	24	2,942
Under Constitution Act	1	1,500	..	..	1	1,500
Officers of Parliament	1	509	..	..	1	509
County Court Judges..	1	750	..	..	1	750
Under Civil Service Act 160	162	38,262	..	..	162	38,262
Under Public Service Act 773	153	37,317	..	..	153	37,317
Commonwealth Service—Officers of transferred Departments	314	29,434	..	..	314	29,434
Various allowances ..	..	..	18	762	18	762
Total Pensions and Superannuation Allowances ..	3,217	434,951	124	6,748	3,341	441,699
Compensations and Gratuities	1	388	24	12,222	25	12,610
Police Superannuation Fund—						
Subsidy .. ..	..	2,000	..	64,500	..	66,500
Transferred from Licensing Fund ..	..	..	..	23,000	..	23,000
Fines .. ..	..	..	..	11,372	..	11,372
Police Pensions Fund Subsidy .. ..	..	..	..	25,000	..	25,000
Total amount .. ..	..	437,339	..	142,842	..	580,181

This fund is maintained by an annual subsidy of £2 000 from the Consolidated Revenue; by a moiety of the fines inflicted by the Courts of Petty Sessions; by a deduction, not exceeding 2½ per cent., from the pay of the members of the Force entitled to pensions; by transfers from the Licensing Fund under the provisions of Act No. 2855; and, should the foregoing sources prove insufficient, by a further grant in aid from the Consolidated Revenue.

During the year 1923-24 the total receipts of the fund amounted to £104,424, consisting of £100,872 from Government revenue as shown in the preceding table, £3,434 from members of the force, and £68 balance brought forward. Payments out of the Fund amounted to £104,368

(518 pensions for £87,848, and 21 gratuities for £16,520), thus leaving a balance of £56 at 30th June, 1924.

Pensions are payable out of this fund only to those members of the Police Force who joined it prior to the 25th November, 1902.

This Act, which came into operation on 1st January, 1924, provides for pensions to those members of the Police Force who have joined it since 25th November, 1902, as well as to persons who may enter the Force in the future. Retirement is compulsory for senior constables and constables on attaining age 55; for sergeants, inspectors, and superintendents on attaining age 60, and for the Chief Commissioner on attaining age 65, except that in special cases any such person may be required to serve for a further period not exceeding five years. The ordinary pension payable on attainment of the retiring age varies from one-fourth of the annual pay at the date of retirement after 15 years' service to two-thirds of such annual pay after 30 or more years' service. Retirement on a medical certificate entitles a member of the Force to a pension for life after completion of 10 years' service, and to a gratuity after a service of less than 10 years. Except in the cases mentioned below, the amount of the pension which is payable on retirement on a medical certificate is, for like durations of service of not less than 15 years, the same as the amount of an ordinary pension payable on attainment of the retiring age. If a member of the Force is incapacitated for the performance of duty owing to an injury received in the execution of duty without his own default, he shall be entitled to a special pension for life which, except in a few instances, is larger than the ordinary pension and, in certain specified circumstances, is the full amount of salary. Provision is made for widows and children, the ordinary pension for a widow being approximately from £40 to £60 per annum, and the allowance for children under sixteen years of age, from £10 to £15 per annum.

A deduction of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum is made from the pay of every member of the Force. When a member leaves the Force of his own accord after having completed 25 years' service or by reason of his having reached the age for compulsory retirement (whichever first happens) and does not receive a pension or gratuity, there shall be paid to him the whole of the rateable deductions which have been made from his pay without any interest thereon.

All pensions, gratuities, and allowances to members or their dependants shall be paid out of a special fund to be kept at the Treasury and to be known as the Police Pensions Fund. Into this fund shall be paid (a) an annual amount of £50,000 from Consolidated Revenue, (b) the deduction of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from the pay of members which is referred to above, (c) all interest on surplus moneys in the Fund invested as provided, and (d) all other moneys payable into the Fund under the Act or any future Act.

All surplus moneys are to be invested in Victorian Government stock or debentures in the name of the Treasurer, and shall carry interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

All surplus moneys are to be invested in Victorian Government stock or debentures in the name of the Treasurer, and shall carry interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

The Government Statist shall make an actuarial valuation of the Fund at least once in three years, and shall certify each year what additional sum, if any, is required to be paid into the Fund from Consolidated Revenue in order to provide that the assets shall be sufficient to meet the liabilities. Any such additional sum shall be appropriated and paid into the Fund.

Port Phillip Pilot Fund. In the year 1923-24, 20 pensions amounting to £3,173 (including increases) were paid out of the Port Phillip Pilot Sick and Superannuation Fund, towards which, however, the Government does not contribute, it being maintained by deductions from pilots' earnings and the annual income derived from investment of the moneys belonging to the Fund.

South Africa Contingent pensions.

Pensions to members and relatives of members of the South African war contingents amounted to £701 in 1923-24.

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION.

Expenditure on Education. During the year 1923-24 the State expended on education generally the sum of £2,763,213, including £412,404 from Loan moneys. The former amount includes the interest payable on loan moneys expended on buildings and expenditure in connexion with pensions and gratuities. The expenditure in each of the last five years, as detailed in the report of the Minister of Public Instruction, was as follows:—

STATE EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION: 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Expenditure on—	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£	£	£
Education—					
Primary	995,171	1,232,440	1,283,499	1,324,144	1,355,876
Intermediate	11,286	20,175	27,610	46,679	48,570
Secondary (including Scho'arships)	88,967	107,498	110,397	119,624	125,337
Special Subjects ..	37,231	49,214	56,930	49,719	54,324
Training of Teachers ..	21,873	26,353	26,768	26,797	28,440
Administration	55,436	63,252	66,549	69,335	69,932
Buildings (State Schools) ..	131,265	176,099	322,411	349,562	431,372
Technical Schools (including Building Grants)	127,544	192,215	229,261	223,978	260,969
University (including Building Grants)	38,584	67,498	113,111	117,197	97,837
Interest payable on Loan Moneys expended on Buildings	55,071	64,404	82,369	97,582	106,800
Miscellaneous (including Pensions and Gratuities)	116,336	118,003	120,694	124,444	133,756
Total	1,678,764	2,117,151	2,439,659	2,549,061	2,763,213*
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Per head of population ...	1 2 4	1 7 9	1 11 6	1 12 1	1 14 0

* In addition, £32,404 paid by students in fees during the calendar year 1923 was expended on technical education.

The foregoing statement deals with the expenditure by the State on education generally, and includes expenditure connected with the University and technical schools, but the statement which follows relates to that portion of the expenditure which has been incurred in connexion with the State schools of Victoria, primary and secondary, excluding the amounts expended on technical schools and scholarships, in each of the last five years :—

**EXPENDITURE IN CONNEXION WITH STATE SCHOOLS:
1919-20 TO 1923-24.**

Items.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£	£	£
Education:					
Primary—					
Day Schools, including Central					
Schools	989,654	1,226,049	1,276,840	1,317,224	1,347,531
Night Schools	64	44	38	5	..
Schools for Deaf Mutes and Blind					
and Feeble-minded Children	3,405	4,391	4,612	5,571	6,070
Grant to Collingwood Play-					
ground	100	100	100	100	..
Subsidized Schools	648	556	609	244	275
Free Kindergarten Union	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,000
State Schools Horticultural					
Society	300	300	300	..	..
	995,171	1,232,440	1,283,499	1,324,144	1,355,876
Intermediate—					
Higher Elementary Schools	10,926	19,791	27,134	32,950	35,149
Evening Continuation Classes	360	385	476	410	492
Schools of Domestic Arts	*	*	*	13,319	12,929
Secondary—					
High Schools	79,352	97,785	101,535	112,291	117,971
	90,638	117,961	129,145	158,970	166,541
Special Subjects—					
Domestic Arts	18,464	24,789	28,025	15,909	17,153
Manual Training	15,364	19,460	21,784	24,998	26,656
Physical Training	714	1,125	1,302	1,212	1,273
Medical Inspection	2,147	2,893	4,690	5,541	5,345
Dressmaking and Needlework	252	379	404	388	430
School Gardening and Planta-					
tions	290	568	725	891	2,189
Singing .. .. .	..	..	..	780	1,278
	37,231	49,214	56,930	49,719	54,324
Training of Teachers—					
Teachers' College	12,753	16,023	16,155	17,212	18,473
Miscellaneous	9,120	10,330	10,613	9,585	9,967
	21,873	26,353	26,768	26,797	28,440
Administration	55,436	63,252	66,549	69,335	69,932
Buildings—					
Primary Schools	98,163	126,112	275,205	296,858	423,494
(expenditure by					
School Committees)	9,770	11,112	11,201	13,199	16,697
Rents	6,492	6,999	8,234	6,876	8,500
Higher Elementary Schools	3,278	18,656	12,950	10,342	20,404
High Schools	13,562	13,220	14,881	22,287	12,277
	131,265	176,099	322,471	349,562	481,372
Interest payable on Loan Moneys					
expended on State School					
Buildings	54,987	62,597	75,292	84,958	95,808
Pensions and Gratuities	116,284	117,950	120,644	123,504	132,979
Total	1,502,885	1,845,866	2,081,298	2,187,079	2,385,272

* Included under heading "Special subjects."

The following return summarizes the expenditure and revenue connected with the Victorian State Schools, and shows the cost per scholar in average attendance for each of the last ten years :—

**COST OF INSTRUCTION IN VICTORIAN STATE SCHOOLS :
1914-15 TO 1923-24.**

Year.	Expenditure by the State.	Revenue of the Education Department.	Net Expenditure.	Number of Scholars— Average Attendance.	Cost per Scholar to the State.
	£	£	£	.	£ s. d.
1914-15 ..	1,426,408	28,612	1,397,796	166,407	8 8 0
1915-16 ..	1,329,272	26,403	1,302,869	167,989	7 15 1
1916-17 ..	1,229,456	28,477	1,200,979	167,588	7 3 4
1917-18 ..	1,211,343	30,577	1,180,769	167,653	7 0 10
1918-19 ..	1,265,750	21,666	1,244,084	171,640	7 5 0
1919-20 ..	1,502,885	23,917	1,478,968	168,314	8 15 9
1920-21 ..	1,845,866	26,520	1,819,346	167,627	10 17 1
1921-22 ..	2,081,298	25,439	2,055,859	177,487	11 11 8
1922-23 ..	2,187,079	25,450	2,161,629	183,045	11 16 2
1923-24 ..	2,385,272	24,979	2,360,293	179,848	13 2 6

This table includes the amount payable each year as interest on loan moneys expended on State School buildings.

STATE UNDERTAKINGS.

The net result of the undermentioned State undertakings during the financial year 1923-24, as disclosed in the Auditor-General's report, was a loss of £2,380. Details are as follows :—

Undertaking.	Loss.	Profit.
	£	£
State Coal Mine, Wonthaggi .. ..	..	3,947
Brown Coal Mine, Morwell .. ..	..	4,542
Victoria Dock Cool Stores	27,275	..
Maffra Sugar Factory .. ..	..	19,017
State Accident Insurance Office ..	..	10,094
Newport Timber Seasoning Works ..	..	64
State Saw Mill, Nayook .. ..	..	2,038
Lighterage, &c., Explosives .. ..	..	1,870
Wire Netting Factory, Pentridge ..	1,880	..
Experimental Farms (net)	11,173	..
High School Farms (net)	3,624	..
	43,952	41,572
Net Loss, 1923-24 .. ..	..	2,380
	43,952	43,952

COMMONWEALTH FINANCE IN VICTORIA.**Commonwealth
Finance.**

A statement of the Commonwealth revenue and expenditure in Victoria for the last five years is given below :—

**COMMONWEALTH REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN THE
STATE OF VICTORIA (ESTIMATED) : 1919-20 TO 1923-24.**

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
REVENUE.	£	£	£	£	£
Customs Duties ..	4,371,405	7,345,609	5,835,394	7,648,521	8,226,378
Excise Duties ..	1,963,915	2,525,847	2,644,585	2,700,312	2,764,938
Income Tax* ..	3,601,000	4,203,000	4,533,000	3,485,000	2,986,000
Post, Telegraph, &c.	1,803,551	2,272,719	2,555,883	2,698,251	2,686,226
War-time Profits Tax*	474,000	495,000	280,000	72,000	18,000
Land Tax* ..	486,000	492,436	525,000	464,000	467,000
Succession Duties* ..	619,000	435,873	367,000	434,000	489,000
War Postage ..	215,000	56,000	..	..	..
Entertainments Tax	176,411	203,769	222,210	208,240	212,011
Miscellaneous ..	1,108,718	981,747	1,098,928	783,676	956,447
Total ..	14,819,000	19,012,000	18,062,000	18,494,000	18,806,000
EXPENDITURE.					
Trade and Customs..	282,860	272,500	216,000	388,000	259,000
Post, Telegraph, &c.	1,538,872	1,901,864	2,427,143	2,434,584	3,079,909
Payment to the State Government ..	1,847,085	1,878,449	1,918,967	1,969,772	2,014,746
Other Expenditure (including Defence, War and Repat- riation Services, &c.)	10,981,183	13,852,187	13,183,890	12,846,644	14,138,345
Total ..	14,650,000	17,905,000	17,746,000	17,639,000	19,492,000

* Estimated.

COMMONWEALTH AND STATE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The total Government revenue and expenditure within the State of Victoria is obtained by combining State and Commonwealth receipts and expenditure. This has been done in the following table, in which are given figures relating to the principal items:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF COMMONWEALTH AND STATE COMBINED: 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Customs and Excise	6,335,320	9,871,456	8,479,979	10,348,833	10,991,316
Post, Telegraph, &c.	1,803,551	2,272,719	2,555,883	2,698,251	2,686,226
State Railways ..	8,081,947	9,848,061	10,751,173	11,289,956	11,922,195
State Taxation ..	3,159,767	3,846,833	3,791,174	4,077,046	4,476,158
Other sources ..	9,457,514	10,348,957	10,922,557	9,744,819	9,791,327
Total Revenue..	28,838,099	36,188,026	36,500,766	38,158,905	39,867,222
EXPENDITURE.					
	282,860	272,500	216,000	388,000	259,000
Trade and Customs	1,538,872	1,901,864	2,427,143	2,434,584	3,079,909
Post, Telegraph, &c.	6,042,136	7,857,380	8,117,070	8,275,909	8,818,314
State Railways ..	1,425,756	1,789,639	1,896,702	1,987,865	2,093,841
Public Instruction*..					
Public Debt (Victoria)—					
Interest and Ex-					
penses ..	3,249,393	3,882,095	4,579,665	5,355,575	5,668,053
Redemption ..	359,100	508,344	402,724	421,166	484,825
Other Expenditure..	15,657,257	18,756,427	18,485,008	18,417,438	20,124,280
Total Expenditure	28,555,374	34,968,249	36,124,312	37,280,537	40,528,222

* Primary and Technical Schools, and University.

COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND LOCAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

A statement of the ordinary revenue and expenditure and of the loan expenditure of the Federal Government in Victoria, also of the State Government and of municipal and local bodies, during the last five years, will be found in the next table. From the totals of revenue and

**Common-
wealth,
State, and
Local
Finance.**

expenditure the amounts received by one body from another have been deducted.

COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND LOCAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE: 1920 TO 1924.

	Financial Year ended in—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Revenue.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Government—					
Federal* ..	14,819,000	19,012,000	18,062,000	18,494,000	18,806,000
State ..	13,832,017	16,949,396	18,190,935	19,401,637	20,805,420
Municipal ..	3,081,726	3,460,727	3,890,390	4,362,983	4,847,899
Other Local Authorities—					
Harbor Trusts ..	438,193	548,008	652,839	745,088	785,799
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works	835,360	820,175	903,606	1,067,599	1,007,407
Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board	1,469,669	1,626,078	1,841,170	1,930,798	1,889,513
Fire Brigades Boards ..	51,906	68,865	75,262	71,999	75,934
Other† ..	122,292	129,879	167,168	182,485	174,454
Total ..	34,650,163	42,615,128	43,783,370	46,256,589	48,392,426
Ordinary Expenditure.					
Government—					
Federal* ..	14,650,000	17,905,000	17,746,000	17,639,000	19,492,000
State ..	13,718,292	16,836,619	18,131,481	19,378,269	20,780,420
Municipal ..	2,960,882	3,466,396	3,804,947	4,089,749	5,093,809
Other Local Authorities—					
Harbor Trusts ..	404,889	506,624	565,157	638,626	697,946
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works	805,135	820,400	933,606	973,166	1,016,650
Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board	1,533,835	1,629,740	1,835,550	1,929,728	2,023,840
Fire Brigades Boards ..	50,171	70,338	77,456	73,168	72,608
Other† ..	135,166	135,120	164,085	179,002	188,440
Total ..	34,258,370	41,370,237	43,258,282	44,900,708	49,365,713

* Estimated. † Ballarat Water Commission and Sewerage Authority; Bendigo Sewerage Authority; Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust; and First Mildura Irrigation Trust.

COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND LOCAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE :
1920 TO 1924—continued.

	Financial Year ended in—				
	1920	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Government—					
Federal* ..	10,570,000	5,812,000	1,740,000	1,665,000	2,220,000
State ..	7,601,266	11,095,158	11,814,990	8,764,306	8,407,526
Municipal ..	259,498	480,166	702,310	885,305	1,146,166
Other Local Authorities—					
Harbor Trusts ..	158,311	188,960	201,534	278,312	414,195
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works	289,930	423,692	665,578	596,841	888,269
Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board	..	..	100,000	..	400,000
Fire Brigades Boards ..	7,046	23,782	25,205	1,443	1,201
Other ..	27,358	59,466	67,543	134,516	126,223
Total ..	18,913,409	18,083,224	15,307,160	12,325,721	13,603,580
<i>Expenditure—Grand Total ..</i>	53,171,779	59,453,461	58,565,442	57,226,429	62,969,293
Per Head of Population—					
Revenue ..	£ s. d. 23 1 1	£ s. d. 27 17 10	£ s. d. 28 4 8	£ s. d. 29 1 9	£ s. d. 29 15 6
Ordinary Expenditure ..	22 15 9	27 1 6	27 17 11	28 4 8	30 7 5
Loan Expenditure	12 11 8	11 16 8	9 17 5	7 15 0	8 7 5

* Estimated.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The following statement shows the result of loan transactions including Treasury Bonds in aid of revenue to 30th June, 1924, with the exception of Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway Debentures taken over, which are not treated in the Treasury accounts as a loan raised by the State :—

LOANS RAISED AND REDEEMED TO 30th JUNE, 1924.

	£
Cash received	250,257,058
Discount and expenses after deducting premiums	2,957,090
Securities issued	253,214,148
Add temporary advance pending loan flotation	3,162,000
	<hr/> 256,376,148
Loans redeemed by—	£
Redemption loans	117,183,070
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board's repayments	2,389,934
Revenue (Special appropriations and Surplus Revenue)	4,279,200
Redemption Funds	6,103,176
Closer Settlement Fund	1,277,355
Coal Mines Sinking Fund	7,050
Discharged Soldiers Concessions Fund	790,600
Discharged Soldiers Settlement Fund	174,101
Discount (securities purchased under par)	64,336
	<hr/> 132,268,822
Loans outstanding on 30th June, 1924	124,107,326*

It will be seen that, upon the transactions to date (excluding the temporary advance referred to above), securities representing £253,214,148 have been issued, and that the amount of cash received has been £250,257,058. This means that the State has received £98 16s. 8d. in cash for every £100 bond given.

Excluding London debentures for £388,100 taken over with the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway and since paid off, the total amount of the loans which have been raised in London at varying rates of interest is £108,943,682. The amount which has been paid off by means of new loans is £56,112,070, and by means of appropriations from revenue, &c., £3,584,998; a sum of £695,300 has been transferred to the Melbourne register, leaving a balance due in London on 30th June, 1924, of £48,551,314, consisting of debentures amounting to £3,045,275, and inscribed stock, £45,506,039. The following table gives particulars respecting the various loans which have been raised in London, together with the average prices obtained after deducting flotation expenses as well as accrued interest, and the rates of interest to which such prices are equivalent :—

* There are, in addition to this amount, the overdue debentures for £1,000, which are referred to further on.

LOANS FLOATED IN LONDON.

When Raised.	Debtures or Stock.			Average Price Obtained per £100 Debenture Stock or Bond.			Actual Rate of Interest per cent.
	Currency.		Amount Sold.	Rate of Interest.	Ex Accrued Interest.	Ex Interest and Expenses. (Net Proceeds.)	
	When Due.	No. of Years.					
			£	Per cent.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
			Debentures.				
1855	1857-72	2-17	500,900	6	..	..	..
1856	1872-74	16-18	65,200	5	..	..	..
1859	1883	24	1,000,000	6	105 1 11½	103 18 11½	5 14 0
"	"	"	750,000	6	107 17 7½	106 14 7½	5 9 10
1860	"	23	2,650,000	6	104 17 10½	103 14 10½	5 14 1
1861	1885	24	1,000,000	6	103 1 6½	101 18 6½	5 17 0
1862	"	23	1,600,000	6	102 19 7	101 16 7	5 17 2
1866	1891	25	850,000	6	100 8 11½	99 5 11½	6 1 1
1869	1894	"	588,600	5	98 4 2½	97 1 2½	5 4 3
1870	"	24	1,518,400	5	100 17 6½	99 14 6½	5 0 5
1874	1899	25	1,500,000	4	90 2 7	88 19 7	4 15 5
1876	1901	"	3,000,000	4	94 16 10½	93 18 11½	4 8 1
1878	1904	26	457,000	4	..	..	..
1879	"	25	3,000,000	4½	97 17 5½	96 19 2½	4 14 0
1880	"	24	2,000,000	4½	103 3 8½	102 5 11	4 6 11
1915	1920-25	5-10	781,700	4½	100 0 0	98 2 9	4 18 6
1916	1920-22	4-6	550,000	5½	97 9 4½	97 9 4½	5 15 1
1916	1920-22	4 6	100,000	5½	97 9 4½	97 9 4½	5 15 1
1917	1927	11	1,109,481	5½	95 18 7½	95 18 7½	5 14 8
1917	1927	10	191,519	5½	95 17 8½	95 17 8½	5 14 9
1919	1924-34	5-15	149,600	5½	100 0 0	98 5 0	5 13 6
1924	1945	21	807,075	5	100 0 0	96 0 6	5 6 4
			Stock.				
1883	1907	24	4,000,000	4	98 16 8½	97 13 7½	4 3 0
"	1908	"	2,000,000	4	97 14 1½	96 10 11½	4 4 6
"	1913	29	1,957,500	4	98 5 7	97 2 8½	4 3 3
1884	1918-22	34	2,042,500	4			
1885	1919	34	3,180,620	4	98 18 6½	97 15 9½	4 2 5
			819,380				
1886	1920	"	1,500,000	4	105 12 3½	104 9 0	3 15 5
1887	"	33	3,000,000	4	102 5 6½	101 2 9	3 18 9
1888	"	32	1,500,000	4	108 1 1½	106 18 0½	3 12 9
1889	1923	34	3,000,000	3½	102 14 10	101 11 11½	3 8 5
1890	"	33	4,000,000	3½	100 2 4	98 19 6	3 11 1
1891	1921-26	30-35	3,000,000	3½	96 3 7	95 0 10	3 15 6
1892	"	29-31	2,000,000	3½	91 13 7	90 10 8	4 1 5
1893	1911-26	17-32	2,107,000	4	94 7 5	93 4 8	4 11 7
1899	1929-49	30-50	1,600,000	3	94 7 1	93 4 2	3 7 3
1901	"	28-48	3,000,000	3	92 2 1	89 14 5	3 11 10
1902	"	27-47	1,000,000	3	95 16 6½	93 8 3½	3 7 6
1903	"	26-46	3,148,176	3½	91 14 9½	89 8 0	4 3 8
1906	"	23-43	587,808	3½	..	..	..
1907	"	22-42	702,140	3½	100 0 0	98 19 1	3 11 5
1909	"	20-40	1,500,000	3½	97 3 11½	94 15 8½	3 17 7
1910	"	19-39	538,352	3½	99 2 6	97 10 0	3 13 8
1913	1918-22	5-9	3,000,000	4	98 0 0	96 4 7	4 17 4
"	1940-60	27-47	1,000,000	4	97 15 0	95 7 5	4 5 10
			2,000,000	4	96 18 9	94 9 10	4 7 0
1915	1920-25	5-10	1,465,300	4½	100 0 0	98 4 3½	4 18 2
1919	1924-34	5-15	2,850,400	5½	100 0 0	98 10 0	5 13 0
1920	1923-25	3-5	2,302,363	6½	100 0 0	99 12 2	6 7 4
1922	1930-40	8-18	4,000,000	5½	99 0 0	97 1 0	5 15 4
"	1935-45	13-23	1,049,868	5	100 0 0	100 0 0	5 0 0
1923	1932-42	9-19	5,000,000	5	99 10 0	97 13 4	5 3 11
"	"	"	9,000,000	5	99 0 0	97 10 9	5 4 1
1924	"	"	3,162,000*	..	..	..	..
			Treasury-bonds				
1892	1893	1	1,000,000	4½	99 3 11	99 1 5	5 0 0
1898	1900	2	500,000	3½	100 0 0	100 0 0	3 15 0
1903	1906	3	2,254,800	4	99 10 8½	96 18 10	5 2 7
Total	..	..	108,943,620				
Paidoff	..	..	59,697,068				
Transferred to Melbourne register	..	..	695,300				
Outstanding	..	..	48,551,252				

*Amount temporarily advanced, under authority of Act No. 3,200, by the Westminster Bank, London, pending the flotation of a loan.

The figures in the last column represent the rates of interest payable by the State for the actual amount of money which was obtained after deduction of all expenses that had been incurred in connexion with the flotation, allowance being made for redemption at par on maturity.

Excluding Victorian debentures for £63,000 taken over with the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway, of which £62,000 have since been paid off, the total amount of the loans which have been floated in Melbourne is £147,432,466. Of this amount £61,071,000 has been redeemed by loans, and £11,500,754 by revenue, &c., leaving due a balance of £74,860,712 on 30th June, 1924, consisting of debentures, £41,277,128, inscribed stock, £32,680,238, and Treasury bonds in aid of revenue, £903,286. In addition, outstanding inscribed stock for £695,300 has been transferred from the London to the Melbourne Register, so that of the debt outstanding the total amount payable in Melbourne is £75,556,012.

The amount of the loans raised in London and Melbourne to 30th June, 1924, inclusive of Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway Debentures taken over, was £256,827,248, and of this sum a total of £132,718,922 had been repaid at that date, viz., £15,085,752 out of the general revenue, and £117,633,170 out of the proceeds of redemption loans. The balance outstanding on 30th June, 1924, was £124,108,326. The purposes for which this amount was borrowed and the annual interest payable thereon are as follows:—

PURPOSES FOR WHICH OUTSTANDING LOANS WERE RAISED.

Loans Raised for—	Amount of Loans outstanding on 30th June, 1924.	Annual Interest Payable.
REVENUE-YIELDING WORKS.	£	£
Railways	66,243,209	3,004,268
Discharged Soldiers Settlement	20,285,902	1,149,210
Closer Settlement	5,216,390	217,421
Waterworks—Country	13,897,462	630,725
Country Roads	4,699,145	235,949
Electricity Supply	6,376,232	331,131
Harbours	533,429	22,742
Agriculture and Advances to Farmers, &c.	409,443	20,229
Mining Development	294,936	10,921
Graving Dock	225,277	8,990
Cool Stores, Outer Ports, &c.	902,845	44,695
Total Revenue-yielding Works	119,084,270	5,676,281

PURPOSES FOR WHICH OUTSTANDING LOANS WERE RAISED—*continued.*

Loans Raised for—	Amount of Loans outstanding on 30th June, 1924.	Annual Interest Payable.
OTHER WORKS.		
	£	£
State Schools, Technical Schools, and University	2,508,746	106,800
Public Offices, Law Courts, and Parliament Houses	230,019	8,778
Wire Netting	243,191	11,702
Loans to Municipalities	376,586	18,454
Defence Works	112,510	3,875
Other Public Works and Buildings .. .	305,341	10,889
Miscellaneous	344,377	15,939
Total Other Works	4,120,770	176,437
In aid of Revenue	903,286	45,914
Net Borrowings	124,108,326	5,898,632

Of the proceeds of the loans outstanding on 30th June, 1924, sums not yet expended amounted in the aggregate to £1,192,375, of which £649,123 was for railways, £316,801 for electricity supply, £164,714 for country water supply, and £61,737 for various other services. Of the amount of the loans which were raised for public works and are still outstanding, 97 per cent. was obtained for works of a revenue-yielding nature.

During the last ten years there has been a very large increase in the Public Debt, the actual increase having been £57,977,600, or 88 per cent. Below is given a statement showing the chief works and services for which the additional liabilities were incurred :—

PUBLIC DEBT—INCREASE IN TEN YEARS.

Work or Service for which raised.	Loans outstanding at 30th June—		Increase.
	1914.	1924.	
	£	£	£
Railways	48,121,468	66,243,209	18,121,741
Waterworks—Country	7,811,497	13,897,462	6,085,965
Metropolitan	1,559,786	..	*1,559,786
Discharged Soldiers Settlement .. .. .	..	20,285,902	20,285,902
Closer Settlement	4,597,195	5,216,390	619,195
Electricity Supply .. .. .	..	6,376,232	6,376,232
Country Roads	26,818	4,699,145	4,672,327
Harbours	340,000	533,429	193,429
Loans and Grants to Municipalities	138,061	376,586	238,525
Agriculture and Advances to Farmers, &c.	90,564	393,443	302,879
Cool Stores, Outer Ports, &c.	220,913	902,845	681,932
State Schools, Technical Schools, and University	1,219,903	2,508,746	1,288,843
Public Offices, Law Courts, and Parliament Houses	573,560	230,019	*343,541
All other Works and Services	1,430,961	1,541,632	110,671
In Aid of Revenue .. .. .	..	903,286	903,286
Total	66,130,726	124,108,326	57,977,600

* Decrease.

The total amount of loans outstanding on 30th June, 1924, inclusive of Treasury bonds in aid of revenue, was £124,108,326, as mentioned above. Of this sum £44,323,403 was in the form of debentures ; £46,201,339 of inscribed stock (London Register) ; £32,680,298 of inscribed stock (Melbourne Register) ; and £903,286 of Treasury bonds in aid of revenue. Particulars concerning the due dates of loans outstanding on 30th June, 1924, are given in the following table. Where the Government has the option of redemption during a specified period the loans have been classified according to the latest date of maturity :—

**Due Dates
of Loans.**

DUE DATES OF VICTORIAN LOANS ON 30TH JUNE, 1924.

Due Date (Financial Year.)	Payable in London.	Payable in Melbourne.	Total.
	£	£	£
Overdue .. .. .	..	5,580	5,580
1924-25	2,249,900	12,896,273	15,146,173
1925-26	4,905,150	4,310,970	9,216,120
1926-27	1,304,000	1,718,007	3,022,007
1927-28 .. .. .	..	7,212,198	7,212,198
1928-29 .. .. .	..	11,240,143	11,240,143
1929-30 .. .. .	..	8,098,544	8,098,544
1930-31 .. .. .	..	3,049,888	3,049,888
1931-32 .. .. .	..	1,104,950	1,104,950
1932-33 .. .. .	..	1,169,766	1,169,766
1933-34 .. .. .	..	4,106,709	4,106,709
1934-35	2,990,449	9,551	3,000,000
1935-36 .. .. .	..	300,000	300,000
1937-38 .. .. .	..	40,000	40,000
1939-40 .. .. .	..	312	312
1940-41	3,909,200	625,580	4,534,780
1941-42 .. .. .	..	423,600	423,600
1942-43	13,883,300	220,300	14,103,600
1944-45	1,807,075	400	807,475
1945-46	1,049,868	15,400	1,065,268
1946-47 .. .. .	..	202,000	202,000
1948-49	5,202,561	264,853	5,467,414
1949-50	6,125,695	106,262	6,231,957
1953-54 .. .. .	..	123,874	123,874
1959-60	2,962,116	17,584	2,979,700
Government Option* .. .. .	..	5,825,193	5,825,193
Not yet fixed† { (a) .. .. .	..	11,794,075	11,794,075
(b) .. .. .	..	92,000	92,000
(c) .. .. .	..	583,000	583,000
Temporary advance from Westminster Bank, London, pending flotation	3,162,000	..	3,162,000
Total	48,551,314	75,557,012	124,108,326

* At option of Government on giving twelve months' notice.

† Amounts received from Commonwealth for purposes of—(a) Discharged Soldiers Settlement; and (b) Loans to Municipalities; and (c) on account of a loan to be floated.

Loans and
Interest
payable in
London and
Melbourne.

An examination of the next table reveals interesting information in regard to the practice adopted when raising money in recent years. During the last 24 years the amount of loans due in Melbourne has grown from £4,669,306 to £75,557,012, while the amount due in London has shown no material variation. With few exceptions, the new loans raised have been obtained locally, while further large amounts have been borrowed in the State for the redemption of London loans as they matured.

**PUBLIC DEBT AND INTEREST PAYABLE THEREON IN
LONDON AND MELBOURNE: 1900 TO 1924.**

On 30th June—	Amount of Loans Payable in—		Annual Interest Payable in—	
	London.	Melbourne.	London.	Melbourne.
	£	£	£	£
1900 ..	44,655,579	4,669,306	1,735,307	152,046
1910 ..	39,012,436	16,564,289	1,419,579	560,520
1915 ..	41,333,738	31,750,189	1,520,762	1,131,811
1916 ..	42,160,566	34,614,466	1,562,884	1,270,886
1917 ..	42,907,086	35,218,309	1,604,171	1,327,518
1918 ..	43,437,719	36,157,927	1,633,681	1,407,419
1919 ..	43,400,300	38,631,629	1,632,372	1,547,192
1920 ..	42,406,040	45,241,699	1,637,615	1,902,108
1921 ..	38,709,050	58,608,781	1,527,541	2,780,300
1922 ..	42,708,244	66,390,955	1,761,734	3,324,535
1923 ..	45,685,997	72,876,032	1,933,000	3,641,693
1924 ..	48,551,314	75,557,012	2,158,199	3,740,433

Rates of
Interest on
Public Debt.

The appended table shows the rates of interest which were payable on the public debt at 30th June, 1924, and the portions of the debt at each rate in London and Melbourne respectively :—

RATES OF INTEREST ON PUBLIC DEBT AT 30TH
JUNE, 1924.

Rate of Interest.	Amount Payable in—		
	London.	Melbourne.	Total.
%	£	£	£
Not bearing interest .. ..	..	5,580	5,580
7½ .. ..	..	586,414	586,414
6/15/2 .. ..	..	631,248	631,248
6/7/0 .. ..	..	5,523,543	5,523,543
6¼ .. ..	..	98,686	98,686
6 .. ..	..	1,279,294	1,279,294
5¾ .. ..	..	3,237,943	3,237,943
5½	8,203,649	10,462,361	18,666,010
5/6/11 .. ..	..	3,563,724	3,563,724
5/5/3 .. ..	..	1,581,146	1,581,146
5¼ .. ..	..	6,847,830	6,847,830
5	15,740,243	20,261,237	36,001,480
4¾ .. ..	..	350,000	350,000
4½ .. ..	..	335,980	335,980
4/14/5 .. ..	..	3,900,000	3,900,000
4¼	2,249,900	934,298	3,184,198
4½ .. ..	..	733,660	733,660
4	2,962,116	2,888,959	5,851,075
3¾ .. ..	..	220,000	220,000
3½	11,030,845	7,212,594	18,243,439
3	5,202,561	4,902,515	10,105,076
Not fixed	3,162,000	..	3,162,000
Total	48,551,314	75,557,012	124,108,326
Average Rate of Interest	% 4·45	% 4·95	% 4·75

While the public debt has increased from year to year a very noticeable feature is the rapid increase which has occurred during the last few years. As compared with 1890 the debt per head of population at 30th June, 1924, had increased by about 100 per cent.; the interest payable per head had increased by 144 per cent. in the same period. In the following statement is shown the growth of the public debt and of the interest payable thereon since the date of the establishment of responsible government in 1855:—

GROWTH OF PUBLIC DEBT AND INTEREST:
1855 TO 1924.

End of Financial Year in—	Loans Outstanding.			Amount per Head of Population.	
	Amount.	Annual Interest Payable.		Debt.	Annual Interest Payable.
		Total.	Average Rate per cent.		
	£	£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1855 ..	480,000	28,800	6·00	1 6 4	0 1 7
1860 ..	5,118,100	306,405	5·99	9 10 4	0 11 5
1870 ..	11,924,800	688,740	5·78	16 8 3	0 19 0
1880 ..	20,056,600	1,004,436	5·01	23 11 9	1 3 7
1890 ..	41,377,693	1,649,465	3·99	36 19 11	1 9 6
1900 ..	49,324,885	1,887,353	3·83	41 6 8	1 11 8
1910 ..	55,576,721	1,980,099	3·56	43 6 8	1 10 10
1920 ..	87,647,739	3,539,723	4·04	57 19 1	2 6 10
1921 ..	97,317,831	4,307,841	4·43	63 5 11	2 16 0
1922 ..	109,099,199	5,086,269	4·66	69 9 3	3 4 10
1923 ..	118,562,029	5,575,067	4·70	73 15 0	3 9 4
1924 ..	124,108,326	5,898,632	4·75	75 13 9	3 11 11

In addition to the ordinary expenditure from revenue, certain sums are disbursed annually for various purposes from Loan Funds. The figures in the following table include all such expenditure, whether the loans have been repaid or are still in existence. The table shows the details for each of the last four years and the total to date :—

EXPENDITURE FROM LOAN FUNDS.

Purpose.	Expenditure during the Year—				Total to 30th June, 1924.
	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Railways	1,413,434	3,886,534	1,674,643	1,395,282	64,766,368
Water Supply—					
Country	810,437	968,047	1,210,485	1,415,109	14,517,457
Metropolitan .. ..	..	..	..	..	3,142,577
Closer Settlement	1,188	18	461,533	855,919	6,462,639
Discharged Soldiers					
Land Settlement	6,935,064	4,287,114	1,959,231	1,577,411	21,246,788
Country Roads	1,042,009	960,821	573,972	566,596	5,290,845
Electricity Supply	158,773	1,337,818	2,471,457	2,090,091	6,059,315
State Schools, Uni- versity, &c.	94,899	281,037	329,882	359,511	2,741,688
State Coal Mine	Cr. 7	Cr. 185	..	..	239,432
Seed and Fodder					
Advances to Farmers	40,676	..	..	..	604,615
Cool Storage—Ad- vances to Companies, &c.	213,616	41,710	3,503	31	573,299
Municipalities—Loans, Advances, and Grants	67,290	38,600	..	3,350	1,115,633
Primary Products— Advances to Com- panies, &c.	258,780	59,821	..	..	318,601
Wire Netting	44,380	15,447	23,731	26,275	400,460
All other works and services	19,155	4,145	55,869	117,951	4,581,417
In aid of Revenue .. ..	..	..	..	..	2,919,652
Total	11,099,694	11,880,927	8,764,306	8,407,526	134,980,786*

* In addition to this amount, the sum of £936,766 was advanced from the Public Account Advances Account in 1923-24 and expended on the following :—Country Roads, £167,425; Closer Settlement, £186,415; Discharged Soldiers Land Settlement, £290,272; Electricity Supply, £205,195; State Schools, etc., £49,501; Wire Netting, £102; and all other purposes, £37,856.

The total interest paid (including all expenses of payment) on loans raised to 30th June, 1924, amounted on that date to about £109,000,000, of which £79,000,000 had been paid in London and £30,000,000 in Melbourne. The amount of interest and expenses paid during each of the last five financial years is shown in the next table :—

Interest paid
on Loans.

INTEREST AND EXPENSES OF PUBLIC DEBT.

Year Ended 30th June.	Interest Paid on Loans in—		Interest Paid on Temporary Loans.	Commission on Payment of Interest in London.	Commission on Redemption, Expenses of Conversion, &c.	Total.
	London.	Melbourne.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1920 ..	1,634,953	1,585,468	16,318	7,099	5,555	3,249,393
1921 ..	1,648,984	2,162,261	56,670	7,658	6,522	3,882,095
1922 ..	1,541,747	2,927,931	100,600	9,387	..	4,579,665
1923 ..	1,765,579	3,563,982	3,701	15,274	7,039	5,355,575
1924 ..	2,066,948	3,589,245	1,917	6,905	4,955	5,669,970

SINKING FUNDS.

Sinking Funds. On 30th June, 1924, the sinking funds for repayment of the public debt amounted to £3,560,225. The balances to the credit of the various funds at that date are shown in the following table:—

	Balance at Credit.
	£
Mallee Land Account	27,733
Victorian Government Consolidated Inscribed Stock Redemption Fund	2,874,426
Victorian Loans Redemption Fund	374,764
Closer Settlement Redemption Fund	37,329
State Coal Mines Sinking Fund	102,351
Main Roads Sinking Fund	129,318
Railways Sinking Fund	11,853
Public Works Sinking Fund	1,810
Developmental Roads Sinking Fund	644
Total	3,560,225

Mallee Land Account. By Act No. 2676 of 1915 the moneys accruing from licensing, leasing, or selling of land in the Mallee country or Mallee border are to be paid into the Treasury and placed to the credit of a separate account, to be called the "Mallee Land Account." The sums standing at credit of this account are available solely for the repurchase, redemption, or paying off of any Victorian stock or debentures. The amount in hand on 30th June, 1923, was £11,322, and during 1923-24 the receipts amounted to £88,626, and the expenditure to £72,218, so that the balance in the fund on 30th June, 1924, was £27,730.

Consolidated Inscribed Stock Redemption Fund. By Act No. 1561 of 1898 it was enacted that a "Victorian Government Consolidated Inscribed Stock Redemption Fund" should be kept in the Treasury, and should be applied to the purchase or repurchase, and ultimately to the redemption of consolidated stock—that is, stock on the London Register—and to the payment of expenses connected with

such purchase or redemption. The fund is made up of money derived from special appropriations from revenue, from repayments by Water Trusts, and from the Mallee Land Account, &c. During 1923-24 there was an expenditure of £16 from this fund, and receipts amounted to £303,865. Transactions to 30th June, 1924, were as follows :—

THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT CONSOLIDATED INSCRIBED
STOCK REDEMPTION FUND: 30TH JUNE, 1924.

Transactions.						To 30th June, 1924.
RECEIPTS.						£
Waterworks Trusts	..	..	..	..	..	344,737
Mallee Land Account	..	..	..	..	..	1,096,000
Revenue	..	..	..	..	..	976,407
Interest on Investments	..	..	..	..	..	729,517
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	103,488
Total receipts	..	..	..	..	..	3,250,149
EXPENDITURE.						
Purchase of Stock	..	..	..	..	..	374,500
Commission, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	1,211
Investment Expenses	..	..	..	..	..	12
Total expenditure	..	..	..	..	..	375,723
Balance in the Fund	..	..	..	..	..	2,874,426
Amount of stock repurchased and cancelled	..	..	..	..	..	397,421

Of the balance in the fund, £2,869,211 was invested in Victorian Government debentures and stock, and £5,215 held in cash.

By Acts Nos. 1565 and 1796 it was provided that a "Victorian Loans Redemption Fund" should be kept in the Treasury and should be available for the purchase, repurchase, or redemption of Victorian Government stock and debentures payable at Melbourne, and for the payment of expenses, costs, &c., incurred. This fund is derived from special appropriations from revenue and repayments of advances made under any Act for "Resumption of Land in Mallee District," and of sundry loans made by the Government to municipalities, &c. During 1923-24 receipts amounted to £325,245, and £125,162 was expended in the purchase for cancellation of £129,401 stock and debentures.

Victorian
Loans
Redemption
Fund.

Transactions in the fund to 30th June, 1924, are shown in the following statement:—

THE VICTORIAN LOANS REDEMPTION FUND: .
30TH JUNE, 1924.

Transactions.	To 30th June, 1924.
RECEIPTS.	£
From Revenue	2,923,320
Resumption of land in Mallee Districts and valuation of improvements	26,192
Payments by Municipalities	377,046
Geelong Municipal Waterworks Trust	265,000
Interest on Investments	182,433
Shipbuilding Yard (realization)	178,500
Sale of Dredge	4,288
Repayment of Loans—	
Bush fires relief	22,779
Floods relief	1,453
Seed advances	608,970
New pilot steamer	16,337
Yarrowee Channel	16,116
Wire netting	351,598
Cool Stores	55,074
Municipalities	316,694
Country roads	80,000
Cattle advances	57,563
Royal Agricultural Society	3,000
Primary products	55,365
Excess of face value of securities over amount invested	408
Total receipts	5,542,136
EXPENDITURE.	
Purchase of stock and debentures	5,167,372
Balance in the Fund	374,764
Amount of stock and debentures repurchased and cancelled	5,204,726

The balance in the fund was represented by Victorian Government debentures and stock having a face value of £365,531, and £9,233 held in cash.

With the approval of the Treasurer this Fund was established to write down the valuation of Closer Settlement Estates by £200,000. The sole revenue of the Fund is a sum of £10,000, which, in accordance with an arrangement entered into, it must receive each year from the profits of the Closer Settlement Fund. Up to 30th June, 1924, the revenue of the Fund had been applied in the cancellation of stock and debentures to the value of £52,671.

**Closer
Settlement
Redemption
Fund.**

Coal Mines Sinking Fund. By Act No. 2630 (Section 96) the net surplus profits of the State Coal Mines were applied in establishing the Coal Mines Sinking Fund. Up to 30th June, 1924, the receipts of that Fund amounted to £109,401. Stock and debentures to the value of £7,050 had been cancelled at par, and there was thus a balance of £102,351. Of this amount £96,115 was invested and £6,236 was held in cash.

Main Roads Sinking Fund. By Act No. 2635 (Section 39) a portion of the money to the credit of the Country Roads Board Fund is paid into the Main Roads Sinking Fund. The receipts of the latter Fund to 30th June, 1924, amounted to £129,318, all of which was invested.

Railways Sinking Fund. By Act No. 3309 of 1923 the surplus railway revenue of every financial year shall be placed to the credit of the Railways Sinking Fund until such sum amounts to 75 per cent. of the loan liability of the Victorian Railways. The moneys at the credit of the Fund shall be invested in Government securities bearing interest at 4 per cent. per annum and shall be available only for redemption of loans raised for railway purposes. Any uninvested moneys shall bear interest at 4 per cent. per annum, which interest shall be paid out of consolidated revenue. The amount at the credit of the Fund at 30th June, 1924, was £11,853, none of which was invested.

Public Works Sinking Fund. Under the provisions of Act No. 3201 of 1922 a fund known as the "Public Works Sinking Fund" was established for the purpose of liquidating the liability on account of certain public works. The works specified in the Act are public offices, education buildings, hospitals for insane, gaols, police quarters, &c. The sum to be paid into the Fund annually shall be equal to 2 per cent. of the total loan expenditure at the end of the preceding financial year, except that it shall be 10 per cent. in the case of buildings, approaches, and improvements, for tourists resorts. The moneys at the credit of the Fund shall be invested in Government securities at 4 per cent. per annum, and, when they are equal to the total amount expended out of loan moneys, shall be transferred to and placed to the credit of the Victorian Loans Redemption Fund. During 1923-24 a sum of £1,741 was paid into the Fund, the balance at credit at 30th June, 1924, being £1,810.

Developmental Roads Sinking Fund. By Act No. 3334 of 1923 a sum equal to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on the amount borrowed under the provisions of the *Developmental Roads Act* 1922 is to be paid into this Fund from consolidated revenue. The moneys in the Fund are to be invested in Government Securities bearing interest at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. There was a credit of £644 in the Fund at 30th June, 1924, all of which was invested.

TRUST FUNDS.

In the succeeding table the liabilities and investments of the various Trust Funds held by the Treasurer are shown for each of the last five years, investments in Victorian securities being distinguished :—

	Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Liabilities.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
At Credit of—					
Public Debt Sinking Funds ..	2,395,813	2,579,019	2,754,540	2,993,432	3,560,225
Savings Bank Commissioners Trust Account ..	6,757,338	7,185,176	6,598,524	64,103	64,103
Other Trust Funds ..	3,536,378	5,001,669	3,859,723	4,131,498	4,436,882
Balance — From General Cash Account ..	..	..	..	..	195,447
Total	12,689,529	14,765,864	13,212,787	7,189,033	8,256,657
<i>Investments, Advances, &c.</i>					
Invested in Victorian Stock or Debentures ..	3,963,276	4,386,711	4,760,336	5,133,710	5,955,771
Other Investments, Fixed Deposits, &c... ..	6,924,755	7,537,255	6,952,503	454,503	474,053
Advances Made... ..	1,435,134	1,917,986	1,358,869	1,460,804	1,826,833
Cash Held	366,364	923,912	141,079	140,016	..
Total	12,689,529	14,765,864	13,212,787	7,189,033	8,256,657

The large falling off in the amount of these Funds between 1922 and 1923 is due to the Treasurer having handed back to the Savings Bank Commissioners the fixed deposit receipts of that institution which he formerly held. The only security which is now held by the Treasurer on account of the Savings Bank is fixed deposit stock in the E.S.A. Bank amounting to £64,103.

PUBLIC DEBTS OF AUSTRALIAN STATES.

The following is a statement of the public debts of the Australian States on 30th June, 1924, showing the amounts, the amounts per head of population, the total interest payable, the average rates per cent., and the rates *per capita*. Sinking Funds have not been deducted. Treasury Bills covering Revenue Deficits are included. Revenue Deficits which are not covered by Treasury Bills, overdrafts on Loan Account, and advances from Trust Funds are excluded.

PUBLIC DEBTS OF AUSTRALIAN STATES ON 30TH JUNE, 1924.

State.	Public Debt.		Interest Payable.		
	Amount.	Per Head of Population.	Amount.	Per Head of Population.	Average Rate per cent.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	
Victoria ..	124,108,326	75 13 9	3,898,632	3 11 11	4.753
New South Wales ..	224,179,515	100 10 3	10,783,186	4 16 8	4.810
Queensland ..	90,561,350	109 8 9	4,023,593	4 17 3	4.443
South Australia ..	70,016,829	132 7 10	3,393,218	6 8 4	4.846
Western Australia ..	62,765,782	174 3 7	2,820,425	7 16 6	4.494
Tasmania ..	23,732,685	111 6 4	1,161,066	5 8 11	4.892

The public debt of the Commonwealth on 30th June, 1924, was £415,600,099, and that of the six States, £595,364,487. From the total of these a deduction of £55,385,628 must be made for debts included twice. The balance (£955,578,958) represents the liability of the Australian public at the date mentioned, which is equal to £164 13s. 1d. per head of the population.

The full indebtedness of the Government, municipalities, and corporations of Victoria for the year 1924 is shown in detail hereunder. From the municipal and corporation debts the amounts of loans from the Government have been excluded.

State and
Local Debts.

STATE AND LOCAL DEBTS, VICTORIA, 1924.

State Public Debt—	£	£
London Register	48,551,314	
Melbourne Register	75,557,012	
Other State Debt (Public Account Advances)	936,766	
Total State Debts		125,045,092
Municipal	6,410,237	
Harbor Trusts	2,910,861	
Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board ..	140,213	
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works	14,502,036	
Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board	1,817,807	
Ballarat Water Commission and Sewerage Authority	112,650	
Bendigo Sewerage Authority	177,767	
Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust ..	1,101,513	
First Mildura Irrigation Trust	100,865	
Total Debts of Municipalities and Corporations (excl. Government loans)	..	27,273,949
Gross Debts .. ..	..	152,319,041
Sinking Funds .. ..	..	4,922,761
Net Debt .. ..	..	147,396,280

This sum (£147,396,280) is equal to a net debt of £89 17s. 10d. per head of the population on 30th June, 1924.

COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND LOCAL TAXATION.

Taxation. The subjoined table shows approximately, for the last five financial years, the amount of revenue collected under the various heads of taxation by the Commonwealth, the State, and local bodies in Victoria :—

TAXATION IN VICTORIA—COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND LOCAL : 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Heads of Taxation.	Amount Received.				
	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£	£	£
Federal—					
Customs Duties ..	4,371,405	7,345,609	5,835,394	7,648,521	8,226,378
Excise Duties ..	1,963,915	2,525,847	2,644,585	2,700,312	2,764,938
Income Tax* ..	3,601,000	4,203,000	4,533,000	3,485,000	2,986,000
Land Tax* ..	486,000	492,436	525,000	464,000	467,000
Succession Duties*	619,000	435,873	367,000	434,000	489,000
War-time Profits Tax* ..	474,000	495,000	280,000	72,000	18,000
War Postage ..	215,000	56,000	..	..	..
Entertainments Tax	176,411	203,769	222,210	208,240	212,011
Total Federal Taxation ..	11,906,731	15,757,534	14,407,189	15,012,073	15,163,327
State—					
Income Tax ..	915,551	1,591,198	1,443,209	1,514,256	1,702,483
Stamp Duties ..	820,618	928,367	930,859	1,116,077	1,177,614
Probate and Succession Duties ..	881,423	702,468	706,181	697,482	798,315
Land Tax ..	314,217	331,756	372,060	392,594	412,165
Licences ..	213,204	274,020	320,127	335,402	363,988
Race Clubs' percentage ..	12,883	17,170	16,948	19,473	19,843
Duties on Bank Notes.. ..	1,871	1,854	1,790	1,762	1,750
Total State Taxation ..	3,159,767	3,846,833	3,791,174	4,077,046	4,476,158
Municipal Taxation..	1,840,062	2,167,757	2,399,256	2,671,783	2,963,431
Total Taxation	16,906,560	21,772,124	20,597,619	21,760,902	22,602,916

* Estimated.

The total State taxation shown above excludes licences issued under the Motor Car Act. The revenue received therefrom is included under the heading "Fees and Fines," and amounted to £85,363 in 1919-20, £98,135 in 1920-21, £118,673 in 1921-22, £158,390 in 1922-23, and £222,397 in 1923-24.

The taxation in Victoria per head of population by the Commonwealth, the State, and local bodies for each of the last five years was as follows:—

COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND LOCAL TAXATION PER
HEAD OF POPULATION: 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Division.	Taxation per Head of Population in Victoria.				
	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Commonwealth	7 18 5	10 6 3	9 5 9	9 8 10	9 6 7
State	2 2 0	2 10 4	2 8 11	2 11 3	2 15 1
Local	1 4 6	1 8 4	1 10 11	1 13 7	1 16 5
Total	11 4 11	14 4 11	13 5 7	13 13 8	13 18 1

While the estimated Commonwealth taxation imposed in Victoria was £9 6s. 7d. per head of population in 1923-24, the taxation in Australia levied by the Commonwealth Government was £8 16s. 11d. per head. The higher rate for Victoria was due to the amount of Customs duties actually collected in the State being much above the average collection on a population basis.

**Additional
Taxation for
Financial Year
1924-25.**

The *Income Tax Act* 1924 fixed the rate of income tax for the year ending 30th June, 1925. Incomes of £200 and under are not taxable. On incomes of from £201 to £500 there is an exemption of £200 (instead of £150 as formerly) which does not apply to companies. The rates shown on page 64 have been retained. There is, however, a super-tax on incomes (excluding companies) of from £800 to £1,000 of 10 per cent.; of from £1,000 to £1,250 of 12½ per cent.; of from £1,250 to £2,200 of 15 per cent.; of from £2,200 to £5,000 of 20 per cent.; and on incomes exceeding £5,000 of 25 per cent. Companies (other than Mutual Life Assurance Companies) are taxed at the rate of 15d. in the £ of the taxable amount of income. Mutual Life Assurance Companies are taxable at the rate of 12d. in the £ in respect to their Mutual Life Assurance business, and at the rate of 15d. in the £ on all other business. On incomes not exceeding £800 an additional deduction of £50 may be made by a married taxpayer for the maintenance of his wife, provided that she has not an income of her own exceeding £100 per annum. The amount that may be deducted from income in respect of children under sixteen years of age is increased from £30 to £50.

From 1st January, 1925, under the *Motor Omnibus Act* 1924, No. 3378, additional fees in the nature of a tax on passenger seating capacity are payable on the registration of motor buses plying for hire within eight miles of the corporate limits of the City of Melbourne. These fees range from £3 7s. 6d. to £4 10s. per passenger seat and are in addition to the ordinary registration fee payable under the *Motor Car Act* 1915, which is now fixed under the Second Schedule of the *Highways and Vehicles Act*, No. 3379, at £5 per annum.

The provisions of the *Highways and Vehicles Act*, No. 3379, relating to registration fees of motor cars, &c., came into operation on 1st January, 1925. They require that the annual registration fee of motor cars, lorries, &c. shall be calculated on the power-weight unit, the charge ranging from 3s. per power-weight unit for ordinary motor cars to 5s. per power-weight unit for motor vehicles fitted with non-pneumatic tires.

LICENCES.

Licences. The following is a statement of the net revenue received from each description of licence during the year 1923-24 (*vide* page 60). Municipal licences for slaughtering, dairies, noxious trades, &c., are excluded, also insurance licences (£66,366), and book-makers' licences (£14,325), the two last mentioned having been shown under Stamp Duties. Motor car licences (£222,397) are included under the heading "Fees and Fines."

REVENUE OF STATE GOVERNMENT FROM LICENCES :
1923-24.

Description of Licence.	Net Revenue Received.
	£
Spirit Merchants and Grocers	33,394
Victuallers	260,955
,, Temporary	4,122
Railway Refreshment Rooms	2,124
Packet	152
Australian Wine	4,948
Billiard Table	5,344
Brewers	162
Vignerons	85
Club Certificates	6,922
Permits (Extra Bars and Extended Hours)	2,123
Auctioneers	23,706
Real Estate Agents	11,949
Tobacco and Cigars—Selling	2,176
Pawnbrokers	770
Hawkers	1,970
Carriage, Stage Carriage, Forwarding Agents	411
Marine Stores	200
Explosives	806
Race Clubs	650
Gold-buyers	184
Second-hand Dealers	671
Farm Produce Agents	164
Total	363,988

In addition to the preceding, there are other licences issued in Victoria by the Department of Trade and Customs; the fees collected in respect of these during the calendar year 1924 were as follows:—

Description of Licence.	Amount of Fees collected.
<i>Customs.</i>	£
Carriage	304
Lighter and Boat	7
Custom House Agents	34
Warehouse	5,189
<i>Excise.</i>	
Distilling—	
General Distillers	200
Wine Distillers	120
Vignerons	65
Brewers	1,200
Manufacturing Tobacco, Cigars, Cigarettes, and Snuff ..	1,994
Starch	15

POPULATION.

According to manuscript notes made by Captain Lonsdale (afterwards the first Colonial Secretary of Victoria), the first enumeration of the people of this State was made within a year after the arrival of Batman (29th May, 1835) by an officer from Sydney, George Stewart, who came in the revenue cutter *Prince George* with orders from His Excellency Sir Richard Bourke to report upon the state of things in the new district. It was then found (25th May, 1836) that the band of first arrivals consisted of 142 males and 35 females, or, in all, 177 residents of European origin. This was the first official census of what was at that time known as Port Phillip. The settlers came from Tasmania and New South Wales. The second enumeration was made on the 8th November of the same year (1836) by order of Captain Lonsdale, who on the 29th day of the previous September arrived in H.M.S. *Rattlesnake* (Captain Hobson), which anchored in that part of the port now called Hobson's Bay. Captain Lonsdale had been appointed police magistrate, with instructions to take general charge of the district. On the 5th October the *Stirlingshire* (brig) arrived with the remainder of the Government establishment, consisting of a detachment of Captain Lonsdale's regiment (the 4th), a principal officer of Customs, three surveyors, an officer in charge of commissariat stores, a small number of Crown prisoners for public service, and three constables. Notwithstanding these additions to the population, the census of the following month showed an increase of 47 persons only—making a total of 224 persons (186 males and 38 females). The third census was taken nearly two years later, in September, 1838, when it was ascertained that the number of inhabitants had increased to 3,511. At the end of 1840 it was estimated that the Port Phillip district contained 10,291 persons. During each of the years 1840 and 1841 the population was doubled, owing principally to the number of assisted immigrants who arrived in the district, and good progress continued to be made to the end of 1850, when the community numbered 76,162 persons.

The discovery of gold in 1851, however, was the greatest factor in populating Victoria. When the discoveries were announced diggers came in thousands from New South Wales, South Australia, and Tasmania, and later on crowds of emigrants from the United Kingdom and other European countries joined in the rush. America contributed its quota, even Californians leaving their own gold-bearing country to try their fortunes in Australia. Some idea of this influx may be gathered from the official figures, which show that the population numbered 463,135 at the end of 1857, or more than six times that of 1850. During the decade 1861 to 1870 the population increased by 188,752, all but 39,000 of which was due to the excess of births over deaths. In the next decennial period, 1871 to 1880, there was an increase of 133,468, but this would have been nearly 13,000 greater if the arrivals in had equalled the departures from the colony. Between 1881 and 1890 an addition of 273,000 was made to the population, about 112,000 of this number being due to immigration. The latter portion of this decennium is known as the "boom period," when land values were highly inflated, wages and prices were exceptionally high, and expenditure by the Government and the people generally was conducted on a most lavish scale. The inevitable reaction followed, and this is reflected in the records.

The net migration from the State during the ten years following 1890 amounted to 109,000 persons, the increase of 64,000 in the total population being accounted for by the fact that the births exceeded the deaths by 173,000. Most of the emigrants left for Western Australia, where gold had been discovered in large quantities. In 1902-3 a year of unexampled drought was experienced, which was felt severely by Victoria as well as all the other Eastern States. From 1903 to 1913 the seasons were usually good, with the result that employment was plentiful and that the State was able not only to retain its own people but also to attract a considerable number of immigrants from other States and countries. In the year 1914 there was a severe drought, and the outbreak of war led to the despatch of a large number of men to places outside Australia. The increase in population was therefore retarded in that year. Although there were record harvests in 1915 and 1916 there was a decrease of population in both of these years on account of the departure of soldiers for the front, and the practical cessation of

immigration. In 1917 and 1918 there were increases in spite of the fact that 20,633 soldiers left the State in the earlier and 4,532 in the later year to take part in the war. In 1919 there was a substantial addition to the population. The increases in the three years mentioned were entirely due to the return of soldiers to Victoria, the number who returned being 16,266 in 1917, 25,900 in 1918, and 77,468 in 1919. In the years 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, and 1924 there were increases of 24,874, 22,777, 39,539, 35,155, and 31,715 respectively, included in which were 3,474 soldiers in the first-mentioned year, and about 4,000 assisted immigrants in 1921, 9,145 in 1922, 9,504 in 1923, and 8,721 in 1924. The subjoined table shows the population in various years from 1836 to 1924 :—

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF VICTORIA, 1836 TO 1924.

Year.	Estimated Population, 31st December.			Estimated Mean Population.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1836 (25th May) ..	142	35	177	200
1836 (8th Novr.) ..	186	38	224	
1840	7,254	3,037	10,291	8,056
1850	45,495	30,667	76,162	71,191
1855	234,450	129,874	364,324	338,315
1860	328,251	209,596	537,847	534,055
1870	398,755	327,844	726,599	713,195
1880	451,456	408,611	860,067	850,343
1890	596,064	537,202	1,133,266	1,118,500
1900	602,487	594,719	1,197,206	1,193,338
1901	603,436	601,464	1,209,900	1,203,137
1902	604,318	603,913	1,208,231	1,207,527
1903	599,950	604,792	1,204,742	1,205,296
1904	597,617	607,991	1,205,608	1,202,814
1905	598,134	612,287	1,210,421	1,206,046
1906	600,856	618,976	1,219,832	1,213,672
1907	605,775	627,032	1,232,807	1,225,503
1908	614,937	635,512	1,250,449	1,240,488
1909	631,021	646,001	1,277,022	1,261,169
1910	646,482	654,926	1,301,408	1,282,477
1911	668,818	671,075	1,339,893	1,320,661
1912	690,056	692,497	1,382,553	1,357,864
1913	707,444	707,972	1,415,416	1,395,958
1914	713,307	721,881	1,435,188	1,427,512
1915	694,210	730,235	1,424,445	1,431,632
1916	666,245	738,418	1,404,663	1,414,480
1917	671,075	745,985	1,417,060	1,411,381
1918	684,243	753,002	1,437,245	1,424,054
1919	739,956	763,079	1,503,035	1,473,013
1920	753,803	774,106	1,527,909	1,512,093
1921	764,905	785,781	1,550,686	1,537,008
1922	788,626	801,599	1,590,225	1,570,824
1923	806,546	818,834	1,625,380	1,607,773
1924	824,182	832,913	1,657,095	1,641,852

The rates of increase in population in different years are given on page 129.

Population,
1924.

The elements of increase in the population of Victoria during 1924 are shown in the following table :—

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF VICTORIA, 31ST DECEMBER, 1924.

	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Estimated Population, 31st December, 1923.. ..	..	..	806,546	818,834	1,625,380
Births, 1924	18,500	17,640	..	..	..
Deaths, 1924	8,863	7,640	..	..	..
Natural Increase .. ..	..	..	9,637	10,000	19,637
Migration by Sea, 1924—					
Arrivals	49,745	38,722	..	..	..
Departures (as adjusted)	39,458	33,283	..	..	..
Gain Seawards .. ..	..	..	10,287	5,439	15,726
Migration by Land, 1924—					
Arrivals	181,969	93,441	..	..	..
Departures (as adjusted)	184,257	94,801	..	..	..
Loss Overland .. ..	..	..	2,288	1,360	3,648
Estimated Population, 31st December, 1924.. ..	..	..	824,182	832,913	1,657,095
Full-blooded aborigines at the date of the 1921 census, not included in the estimate .. ..	..	..	80	64	144

Increase of
Population,
1891-1924.

The population of Victoria on 5th April, 1891, when the census of that year was taken, was 1,140,405; in 1901 it was 1,201,341; in 1911, 1,315,551; and, in 1921, 1,531,280. The table which follows shows the increase of

population by excess of births over deaths, and the loss by emigration in each year since the first-mentioned date :—

INCREASE OF POPULATION BY EXCESS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS, AND LOSS BY EMIGRATION, 1891 TO 1924.

Year.	Natural Increase (i.e., Excess of Births over Deaths).	Loss by Emigration.	Net Increase.
1891 (from 5th April, Census) ..	15,859	+ 1,414	17,273
1892	21,980	11,058	10,922
1893	20,044	12,484	7,560
1894	18,828	12,698	6,130
1895	18,070	14,410	3,660
1896	16,464	22,134	- 5,670
1897	16,184	13,754	2,430
1898	11,477	11,127	350
1899	14,430	8,020	6,410
1900	15,564	7,828	7,736
1901 (to 31st March, Census) ..	3,613	+ 251	3,864
Total Intercensal period (10 years)..	172,513	111,848	60,665
1901 (from 1st April)	11,491	2,661	8,830
1902	14,284	15,953	- 1,669
1903	13,974	17,463	- 3,489
1904	15,370	14,504	866
1905	15,431	10,618	4,813
1906	15,607	6,196	9,411
1907	16,826	3,851	12,975
1908	15,331	+ 2,311	17,642
1909	17,108	+ 9,465	26,573
1910	16,705	+ 7,681	24,386
1911 (to 2nd April, Census) ..	4,694	+ 9,449	14,143
Total Intercensal period (10 years)..	156,821	42,340	114,481
1911 (from 3rd April)	13,116	+ 11,226	24,342
1912	19,207	+ 23,453	42,660
1913	20,496	+ 12,367	32,863
1914	19,719	+ 53	19,772
1915	19,186	29,929	- 10,743
1916	17,746	37,528	- 19,782
1917	18,478	6,081	12,397
1918	16,420	+ 3,765	20,185
1919	12,249	+ 53,541	65,790
1920	19,381	+ 5,493	24,874
1921 (to 4th April, Census) ..	4,679	1,308	3,371
Total Intercensal period (10 years)	180,677	+ 35,052	215,729
1921 (from 5th April)	14,747	+ 4,659	19,406
1922	21,133	+ 18,406	39,539
1923	18,653	+ 16,497	35,155
1924	19,637	+ 12,078	31,715

NOTE.—The plus sign (+) indicates that the arrivals in exceeded the departures from the State by the number against which it is placed.

Immigration
and
emigration,
1920-1924.

The following table shows the total migration by sea to and from Victoria during the five years 1920 to 1924 :—

RECORDED IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION BY SEA, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	Immigrants.	Emigrants.	Excess of Immigrants.
1920	65,595	59,956	5,639
1921	66,537	63,944	2,593
1922	81,903	66,355	15,548
1923	87,248	69,986	17,262
1924	88,467	72,458	16,009

Migration
of Soldiers.

The number of soldiers belonging to the Australian Expeditionary Forces who arrived in Victoria from or left the State for oversea countries from the commencement of the war to the 31st December, 1920, is shown in the *Year-Book* for 1922-23, page 85.

Arrivals and
departures by
rail, 1920 to
1924.

The Inter-State railway passenger traffic, as well as the seaward traffic, is taken into account in framing estimates of population. The effect of the railway traffic during the past five years is shown in the following statement :—

RECORDED MIGRATION BY RAIL, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	Arrivals.			Departures.			Excess of Arrivals.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1920	184,554	95,084	279,638	184,233	98,099	282,332	321	3,015	2,694
1921	170,268	88,177	258,445	168,224	88,571	256,795	2,044	394	1,650
1922	169,025	86,986	255,011	164,289	86,998	251,278	3,745	12	3,733
1923	171,436	88,430	259,866	172,580	87,132	259,712	1,144	1,293	154
1924	181,969	93,441	275,410	182,857	95,561	278,418	888	2,120	3,008

Since the beginning of 1913 a systematic count has been made of the passengers who travel by rail between the States of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and South Australia.

During 1924 Victoria lost by rail 2,484 persons to New South Wales and 524 to South Australia.

Gain by
immigration
from various
countries and
vice versa.

The net result of the recorded immigration and emigration by sea between Victoria and the neighbouring States, the United Kingdom, and foreign countries (exclusive of soldiers) during each of the five years ended 1924 is shown in the following table. Where a minus sign (—) appears, it indicates that the emigrants exceeded the immigrants by the number against which it is placed :—

RECORDED NET IMMIGRATION TO VICTORIA BY SEA, 1920 TO 1924.

	Excess of Immigration over Emigration between Victoria and—												
Year.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	South Africa.	United Kingdom.	Other British Dominions.	United States.	Other Foreign Ports.	Crews of Vessels.	Net Immigration.
1920	— 454	— 681	115	326	— 33	— 373	— 97	6,873	— 167	2	137	— 9	5,639
1921	— 158	— 649	9	175	— 2,228	413	— 163	5,876	— 8	10	105	— 789	2,593
1922	— 251	— 471	71	750	3,444	468	18	10,408	399	6	612	94	15,548
1923	450	— 355	— 116	764	3,610	592	127	11,181	563	15	431	..	17,262
1924	— 876	— 1,058	— 61	747	3,71	68	248	10,640	40	11	2,532	..	16,009
Total	— 1,289	— 3,214	18	2,764	8,50	1,168	133	44,978	827	44	3,817	— 704	57,051

The net result of the seaward migration for the five years has been an increase to Victoria of 57,051 persons, the principal gains having been from the United Kingdom, Tasmania, Foreign ports, Western Australia, and New Zealand. New South Wales and Queensland attracted persons from this State during that period.

The number of persons who have been assisted to come to Victoria from the foundation of the State to the end of 1924 will be found in the next table :—

STATE-ASSISTED IMMIGRATION TO VICTORIA TO THE END OF 1924.

Period.	Number of State-assisted Immigrants.	Period.	Number of State-assisted Immigrants.
1838-50	28,632	1911	6,776
1851-60	87,963	1912	15,119
1861-70	46,594	1913	12,146
1871-80	5,545	1914	7,496
1881-90	2	1915	1,724
1891-00 .. ..	..	1916	327
1901 .. ..	..	1917	146
1902 .. ..	..	1918	101
1903 .. ..	..	1919	139
1904 .. ..	..	1920	2,763
1905 .. ..	..	1921	3,987
1906 .. ..	..	1922	9,145
1907	127	1923	9,504
1908	360	1924	8,721
1909	652		
1910	1,690	Total	249,659

In 1924 the immigrants assisted by the Government numbered 8,721, of whom 3,768 were nominated and 4,953 selected. Of the immigrants 1,970 were married persons. The sex distribution of the State-assisted immigrants was—males 5,782, and females 2,939.

Upon the outbreak of war in August, 1914, instructions were issued by the Victorian Government that no men who were within the limits of the recruiting ages should be accepted for assisted passages by its representatives in England. Partly for this reason and partly because of the existence of prosperous conditions in Great Britain the number of assisted immigrants to Victoria was very small during the years 1915 to 1919.

A statement of the arrangements which have been made for assisting immigrants to come to Victoria is given in a later portion of this volume under the heading "Immigration, Intelligence, and Labour Bureau."

CENSUS OF 1921.

A census of Australia was taken on 4th April, 1921, under the general superintendence of the Commonwealth Statistician. The officer in charge of the collection in each State was the Commonwealth electoral officer for that State with the designation of "Deputy Supervisor of Census." Under him an enumerator was in charge of each Commonwealth electoral division, and under each enumerator there was a sub-enumerator in respect of each electoral subdivision or a group of subdivisions. In all cases the position of enumerator was filled by the divisional returning officer. Each subdivision was further cut up into collectors' districts for the actual work of collection. The collecting organizations for the States comprised six deputy supervisors, 75 enumerators, and about 1,100 sub-enumerators, and 7,000 collectors.

A deputy supervisor was appointed for each of the Territories, viz., Northern Territory, Federal Territory, Norfolk Island, and Papua, and for the late German New Guinea. In these cases the collectors worked under the immediate direction of the deputy supervisor.

Census
Population of
Municipalities.

The following statement shows the population of and number of dwellings in each of the municipalities of the State at the census of 4th April, 1921 :—

POPULATION OF AND DWELLINGS IN EACH LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AREA OF VICTORIA AS AT
THE CENSUS OF 4TH APRIL, 1921.

Local Government Area.	Population.			Dwellings.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Built.	Being Built.	Total.
<i>Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—Metropolitan.</i>						
Brighton	9,491	11,744	21,235	4,620	59	4,679
Brunswick	21,339	23,145	44,484	9,685	91	9,776
Camberwell	10,703	13,132	23,835	5,729	124	5,853
Caulfield	18,667	22,026	40,693	9,672	162	9,834
Coburg	8,952	9,162	18,114	3,857	40	3,897
Collingwood	15,956	18,283	34,239	7,564	1	7,565
Essendon	16,525	18,744	35,269	8,050	36	8,086
Fitzroy	16,311	18,627	34,938	7,708	4	7,712
Footscray	16,785	16,990	33,775	7,147	46	7,193
Hawthorn	12,870	16,295	29,165	6,563	29	6,592
Kew	7,711	9,671	17,382	3,650	57	3,707
Malvern	14,054	18,252	32,306	7,626	127	7,753
Melbourne	51,084	52,167	103,251	21,533	22	21,555
Northcote	14,694	15,825	30,519	6,841	112	6,953
Oakleigh	2,932	3,144	6,076	1,366	17	1,383
Port Melbourne	6,495	6,594	13,089	2,306	2	2,808
Prahran	21,766	28,584	50,290	11,479	18	11,497
Richmond	20,606	22,565	43,171	9,505	6	9,511
Sandringham	5,142	6,174	11,316	2,761	63	2,824
South Melbourne	22,167	24,706	46,873	10,153	16	10,169
St. Kilda	16,736	21,843	38,579	8,307	64	8,371
Williamstown	9,916	9,526	19,442	4,335	30	4,365
Total	340,842	387,199	728,041	160,957	1,126	162,083
<i>Extra Metropolitan.</i>						
Ararat	2,306	2,347	4,653	857	2	859
Ballarat	9,359	11,856	21,215	4,950	12	4,962
Ballarat East	6,194	7,258	13,452	3,308	3	3,311
Bendigo	11,755	13,927	25,682	5,970	15	5,985
Carrum	2,490	2,735	5,225	1,850	17	1,867
Castlemaine	2,509	2,822	5,331	1,249	1	1,250
Clunes	510	715	1,225	354	1	355
Creswick	764	906	1,670	429	..	429
Daylesford	1,468	1,860	3,328	771	..	771
Dunolly	405	448	853	242	..	242
Eaglehawk	2,134	2,585	4,719	1,171	..	1,171
Echuca	1,836	1,909	3,745	859	1	860
Geelong	6,850	7,955	14,805	3,245	2	3,247
Geelong West	4,518	5,123	9,641	2,221	10	2,231
Hamilton	2,406	2,691	5,097	1,155	2	1,157
Horsham	1,805	1,985	3,790	833	12	845

POPULATION OF AND DWELLINGS IN EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
OF VICTORIA AS AT THE CENSUS OF 4TH APRIL, 1921—*continued.*

Local Government Area.	Population.			Dwellings.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Built.	Being Built.	Total.
<i>Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—Extra Metro- politan—continued.</i>						
Inglewood	517	600	1,117	289	..	289
Koroit	856	904	1,760	364	..	364
Maryborough	2,216	2,528	4,744	1,172	2	1,174
Mentone and Mordialloc ..	2,629	3,045	5,674	1,361	7	1,368
Mildura	2,665	2,436	5,101	1,064	16	1,080
Newtown and Chilwell ..	3,312	3,928	7,240	1,596	5	1,601
Port Fairy	983	1,005	1,988	435	..	435
Portland	1,135	1,420	2,555	561	2	563
Queenscliff	1,102	1,384	2,486	502	..	502
Sale	1,766	2,003	3,769	824	6	830
Sebastopol	867	875	1,742	420	..	420
St. Arnaud	1,214	1,507	2,721	638	2	640
Stawell	2,041	2,372	4,413	1,046	1	1,047
Wangaratta	1,769	1,920	3,689	751	4	755
Warrnambool	3,718	4,012	7,730	1,655	4	1,659
Wonthaggi	2,809	2,361	5,170	1,045	19	1,064
Total	86,908	99,422	186,330	43,187	146	43,333
Total—Cities, Towns, and Boroughs ..	427,750	486,621	914,371	204,144	1,272	205,416
<i>Shires.</i>						
Alberton	3,114	2,508	5,622	1,339	5	1,344
Alexandra	1,890	1,464	3,354	920	1	921
Arapiles	1,198	1,126	2,324	480	..	480
Ararat	3,162	2,793	5,955	1,349	1	1,350
Avoca	1,658	1,649	3,307	818	4	822
Avon	1,287	1,097	2,384	543	3	546
Bacchus Marsh	1,738	1,561	3,299	675	9	684
Bairnsdale	3,888	3,831	7,719	1,794	3	1,797
Ballan	1,603	1,477	3,080	798	1	799
Ballarat	1,894	2,059	3,953	733	4	737
Bannockburn	1,345	1,244	2,589	633	..	633
Barrarbool	968	843	1,811	411	..	411
Barwon South	1,529	1,639	3,168	857	1	858
Beechworth	2,358	2,293	4,651	1,014	1	1,015
Belfast	1,322	1,166	2,488	524	..	524
Bellarine	2,040	1,969	4,009	969	4	973
Benalla	3,895	3,692	7,587	1,771	3	1,774
Berwick	4,832	4,119	8,951	2,156	10	2,166
Bet Bet	1,424	1,255	2,679	698	1	699
Birchip	1,014	836	1,850	395	2	397
Borung	2,532	2,219	4,751	1,056	2	1,058
Braybrook	2,335	2,096	4,431	944	75	1,019
Bright	2,044	1,958	4,002	1,000	..	1,000
Broadford	710	622	1,332	347	1	348

POPULATION OF AND DWELLINGS IN EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
OF VICTORIA AS AT THE CENSUS OF 4TH APRIL, 1921—*continued.*

Local Government Area.	Population.			Dwellings.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Built.	Being Built.	Total.
<i>Shires—continued.</i>						
Broadmeadows ..	3,626	1,804	5,430	820	7	827
Bulla ..	1,264	1,337	2,601	370	..	370
Buln Buln ..	3,264	2,618	5,882	1,472	..	1,472
Bungaree ..	1,528	1,490	3,018	717	..	717
Buninyong ..	2,637	2,427	5,064	1,225	3	1,228
Charlton ..	1,325	1,140	2,465	535	..	535
Chiltern ..	1,063	1,077	2,140	536	..	536
Colac ..	6,248	5,851	12,099	2,662	23	2,685
Corio ..	2,256	1,685	3,941	766	8	774
Cranbourne ..	3,219	2,462	5,681	1,403	10	1,413
Creswick ..	1,505	1,539	3,044	774	..	774
Dandenong ..	3,439	3,441	6,880	1,583	27	1,610
Deakin ..	2,163	1,761	3,924	926	2	928
Dimboola ..	3,370	2,899	6,269	1,256	4	1,260
Donald ..	1,727	1,513	3,240	709	..	709
Doncaster ..	1,342	1,242	2,584	670	3	673
Dundas ..	1,788	1,699	3,487	794	1	795
Dunmunkle ..	2,486	2,097	4,583	982	2	984
Eltham ..	2,092	1,981	4,073	1,104	1	1,105
Euroa ..	1,994	1,914	3,908	898	1	899
Ferntree Gully ..	3,372	3,632	7,004	2,255	37	2,292
Flinders ..	2,505	2,250	4,755	1,237	3	1,240
Frankston and Hastings ..	2,299	2,347	4,646	1,431	2	1,433
Gippsland South ..	2,615	2,058	4,673	1,037	1	1,038
Gisborne ..	1,089	1,286	2,375	564	..	564
Glenelg ..	2,815	2,664	5,479	1,235	4	1,239
Glenlyon ..	1,638	1,783	3,421	847	2	849
Gordon ..	1,717	1,433	3,150	708	1	709
Goulburn ..	1,145	1,001	2,146	506	1	507
Grenville ..	1,557	1,565	3,122	803	..	803
Hampden ..	5,370	5,133	10,503	2,282	6	2,288
Healesville ..	1,550	1,864	3,414	710	5	715
Heidelberg ..	7,942	8,674	16,616	3,420	43	3,463
Heytesbury ..	2,326	2,123	4,449	961	1	962
Huntly ..	1,696	1,402	3,098	767	1	768
Kara Kara ..	1,649	1,392	3,041	709	4	713
Karkarooc ..	3,139	2,354	5,493	1,210	5	1,215
Keilor ..	663	528	1,191	265	..	265
Kerang ..	5,697	4,779	10,476	2,353	12	2,365
Kilmore ..	942	848	1,790	431	..	431
Korong ..	2,611	2,262	4,873	1,141	2	1,143
Kowree ..	1,748	1,550	3,298	792	2	794
Kyneton ..	3,341	3,630	6,971	1,705	4	1,709
Lawloit ..	1,150	1,016	2,166	443	..	443
Leigh ..	807	716	1,523	387	..	387

POPULATION OF AND DWELLINGS IN EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
OF VICTORIA AS AT THE CENSUS OF 4TH APRIL, 1921—*continued.*

Local Government Area.	Population.			Dwellings.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Built.	Being Built.	Total.
<i>Shires—continued.</i>						
Lexton	894	729	1,623	414	..	414
Lilydale	4,651	4,758	9,409	2,463	35	2,498
Loddon East	971	800	1,771	407	..	407
Lowan	1,906	1,722	3,628	772	..	772
Maffra	3,082	2,571	5,653	1,282	9	1,291
Maldon	1,508	1,630	3,138	764	..	764
Mansfield	2,119	1,874	3,993	980	2	982
Marong	3,053	2,822	5,875	1,342	1	1,343
Melton	786	644	1,430	341	..	341
Metcalfe	1,350	1,323	2,673	647	1	648
Mildura	4,891	3,189	8,080	2,189	9	2,198
Minhamite	1,017	863	1,880	468	24	492
Mirboo	892	646	1,538	367	..	367
Moorabbin	3,786	3,657	7,443	1,499	19	1,518
Mornington	987	1,215	2,202	588	2	590
Mortlake	1,497	1,414	2,911	697	4	701
Morwell	2,105	1,580	3,685	969	1	970
Mt. Rouse	1,361	1,348	2,709	597	..	597
Mulgrave	1,600	1,610	3,210	714	3	717
Murray Upper	1,169	942	2,111	460	1	461
McIvor	1,744	1,590	3,334	811	..	811
Narracan	3,810	3,110	6,920	1,671	3	1,674
Newham and Woodend ..	984	1,108	2,092	481	..	481
Newstead and Mt. Alexander	1,356	1,344	2,700	733	..	733
Numurkah	3,000	2,765	5,765	1,327	..	1,327
Nunawading	6,238	6,393	12,631	2,855	52	2,907
Omeo	1,303	1,065	2,368	665	2	667
Orbost	2,204	1,624	3,828	999	1	1,000
Otway	2,339	1,701	4,040	997	4	1,001
Oxley	2,172	1,776	3,948	864	1	865
Phillip Island and Woolamai	2,721	2,379	5,100	1,111	2	1,113
Poowong and Jeetho	3,891	3,286	7,177	1,657	4	1,661
Portland	2,742	2,525	5,267	1,260	3	1,263
Preston	4,717	4,953	9,670	2,102	86	2,188
Pyalong	370	331	701	189	..	189
Ripon	1,730	1,700	3,430	803	..	803
Rochester	3,397	2,889	6,286	1,399	7	1,406
Rodney	3,913	3,481	7,394	1,642	7	1,649
Romsey	1,690	1,503	3,193	800	..	800
Rosedale	2,260	1,920	4,180	1,002	4	1,006
*Rutherglen	2,086	1,859	3,945	885	..	885
Seymour	2,028	1,778	3,806	870	2	872

*The borough of Rutherglen has been amalgamated with the shire, and the figures which are given above relate to the municipality in its altered form. In Census publications the population of the borough is shown as Males 572, Females 588—Total 1,160; and that of the shire as Males 1,514, Females 1,271—Total 2,785.

POPULATION OF AND DWELLINGS IN EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
OF VICTORIA AS AT THE CENSUS OF 4TH APRIL, 1921—*continued.*

Local Government Area.	Population.			Dwellings.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Built.	Being Built.	Total.
<i>Shires—continued.</i>						
Shepparton	4,019	3,692	7,711	1,685	5	1,690
Stawell	1,840	1,510	3,350	802	..	802
Strathfieldsaye	1,687	1,687	3,374	788	..	788
Swan Hill	6,723	4,830	11,553	2,721	16	2,737
Talbot	646	736	1,382	388	..	388
Tambo	2,235	1,993	4,228	929	1	930
Towong	2,412	1,915	4,327	1,008	2	1,010
Traralgon	1,729	1,609	3,338	791	4	795
Tullaroop	1,314	1,264	2,578	637	..	637
Tungamah	2,402	2,098	4,500	1,030	2	1,032
Upper Yarra	3,017	2,512	5,529	1,308	10	1,318
Violet Town	960	924	1,884	461	2	463
Walpeup	3,278	2,195	5,473	1,199	5	1,204
Wangaratta	1,268	1,117	2,385	525	..	525
Wannon	1,519	1,322	2,841	636	3	639
Waranga	2,909	2,462	5,371	1,321	2	1,323
Warragul	2,543	2,412	4,955	1,048	4	1,052
Warrnambool	4,256	3,978	8,234	1,760	..	1,760
Werribee	3,737	3,299	7,036	1,559	7	1,566
Whittlesea	1,835	1,645	3,480	788	..	788
Wimmera	2,346	1,810	4,156	870	2	872
Winchelsea	2,247	2,061	4,308	980	1	981
Wodonga	1,368	1,185	2,553	608	7	615
Woorayl	3,311	2,656	5,967	1,358	4	1,362
Wycheproof	2,428	1,785	4,213	1,000	..	1,000
Yackandandah	1,515	1,412	2,927	677	2	679
Yarrawonga	1,354	1,265	2,619	611	..	611
Yea	1,488	1,208	2,696	646	10	656
Total—Shires	322,205	288,782	610,987	141,842	737	142,579
SUMMARY.						
Cities, Towns and Boroughs	427,750	486,621	914,371	204,144	1,272	205,416
Shires	322,205	288,782	610,987	141,842	737	142,579
Not Incorporated	106	68	174	64	..	64
Whole State	750,061	775,471	1,525,532	346,050	2,009	348,059
Shipping	4,663	1,085	5,748	..	..	..
Total Population	754,724	776,556	1,531,280	346,050	2,009	348,059

Population in each District. The enumerated populations of the districts of Victoria at the last two census dates are shown hereunder :—

**ENUMERATED POPULATIONS OF THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS
OF VICTORIA AT THE CENSUSES OF 1911 AND 1921.**

District.	1911.			1921.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Central ..	358,360	388,532	746,892	465,671	510,370	976,041
North Central	37,256	37,268	74,524	30,946	31,645	62,591
Western ..	69,746	68,792	138,538	67,178	67,380	134,558
Wimmera ..	31,636	28,067	59,703	30,533	27,940	58,473
Mallee ..	17,247	11,806	29,053	25,896	19,032	44,928
Northern ..	67,819	63,988	131,807	62,066	59,767	121,833
North-Eastern	30,795	27,488	58,283	25,902	23,577	49,479
Gippsland ..	38,650	33,296	71,946	41,869	35,760	77,629
Shipping ..	4,082	723	4,805	4,663	1,085	5,748
Total ..	655,591	659,960	1,315,551	754,724	776,556	1,531,280

In only three districts were increases shown in the intercensal period. The population of the Central District, which includes Melbourne and suburbs, advanced by 229,149; that of the Mallee District by 15,875; and that of the Gippsland District by 5,683 during the decennium. All the northern districts lost population during the period mentioned, and the Wimmera District, in which large quantities of wheat are grown, had 1,230 fewer residents in 1921 than in 1911.

The populations enumerated in each county of the State at the Censuses of 1911 and 1921 are given in the following statement, and the increases or decreases are shown :—

POPULATION OF COUNTIES IN VICTORIA, 1911 AND 1921.

County.	Enumerated Population in—						Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in 1921 compared with 1911.					
	1911.			1921.								
	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Anglesey ..	4,772	4,180	8,952	5,508	4,581	10,089	+	736	+	401	+	1,137
Benambra ..	3,625	2,957	6,582	3,359	2,722	6,081	—	266	—	235	—	501
Bendigo ..	26,771	27,729	54,500	22,924	24,606	47,530	—	3,847	—	3,123	—	6,970
Bogong ..	14,681	13,224	27,905	11,639	10,668	22,307	—	3,042	—	2,556	—	5,598
Borong ..	16,289	14,562	30,851	16,173	14,721	30,894	—	116	+	169	+	43
Bourke ..	295,309	327,502	622,811	358,959	433,810	822,769	+	93,650	+	106,308	+	199,958
Buln Buln ..	22,283	18,774	41,057	24,546	20,344	44,890	+	2,263	+	1,570	+	3,833
Croajingo- long ..	1,510	1,190	2,700	1,684	1,275	2,959	+	174	+	85	+	259
Dalhousie ..	8,917	8,724	17,641	8,086	8,117	16,203	—	831	—	607	—	1,438
Dargo ..	3,077	2,441	5,518	2,353	2,050	4,403	—	724	—	391	—	1,115
Delatite ..	11,491	10,574	22,065	10,171	9,655	19,826	—	1,320	—	919	—	2,239
Dundas ..	5,298	5,152	10,450	5,330	5,258	10,588	+	32	+	106	+	138
Evelyn ..	9,026	8,265	17,291	12,460	12,090	24,550	+	3,434	+	3,823	+	7,259
Follett ..	1,372	1,339	2,711	1,611	1,552	3,163	+	239	+	213	+	452
Gladstone ..	8,752	7,961	16,713	6,516	5,939	12,455	—	2,236	—	2,022	—	4,258
Grant ..	34,991	36,486	71,477	35,677	38,110	73,787	+	686	+	1,624	+	2,310
Grenville ..	20,503	22,567	43,070	17,621	19,791	37,412	—	2,882	—	2,776	—	5,658
Gunbower ..	5,083	4,181	9,264	6,258	5,357	11,615	+	1,175	+	1,176	+	2,351
Hampden ..	6,707	6,188	12,895	6,443	6,244	12,687	—	264	—	56	—	208
Heytesbury ..	3,705	3,261	6,966	4,090	3,764	7,854	+	385	+	503	+	888
Kara Kara ..	8,265	7,274	15,539	7,627	7,195	14,822	—	638	—	79	—	717
Karkaroc ..	9,618	6,562	16,180	16,267	11,882	28,149	+	6,649	+	5,320	+	11,969
Lowan ..	7,082	6,231	13,313	6,733	6,024	12,757	—	349	—	207	—	556
Millewa ..	56	28	84	49	21	70	—	7	—	7	—	14
Moir ..	16,814	15,028	31,842	14,878	13,623	28,501	—	1,936	—	1,405	—	3,341
Mornington ..	19,034	16,279	35,313	28,575	26,360	54,935	+	9,541	+	10,081	+	19,622
Normanby ..	5,900	6,007	11,907	5,857	5,922	11,779	—	43	—	85	—	128
Polwarth ..	7,367	6,533	13,900	7,981	7,173	15,154	+	614	+	640	+	1,254
Ripon ..	7,464	6,448	13,912	6,671	6,236	12,907	—	793	—	212	—	1,005
Rodney ..	10,399	9,089	19,488	11,490	10,242	21,732	+	1,091	+	1,153	+	2,244
Talbot ..	23,567	24,364	47,931	17,352	18,947	36,299	—	6,215	—	5,417	—	11,632
Tambo ..	1,650	1,329	2,979	2,240	1,876	4,116	+	590	+	547	+	1,137
Tanjil ..	10,130	9,562	19,692	11,046	10,215	21,261	+	916	+	653	+	1,569
Tatchera ..	6,318	4,519	10,837	7,076	5,321	12,397	+	758	+	802	+	1,560
Villiers ..	11,430	11,297	22,727	11,574	11,440	23,014	+	144	+	143	+	287
Weeah ..	1,255	697	1,952	2,504	1,808	4,312	+	1,249	+	1,111	+	2,360
Wonnangatta ..	998	733	1,731	733	532	1,265	—	265	—	201	—	466
<i>Outside Counties—</i>												
Shipping ..	4,082	723	4,805	4,663	1,085	5,748	+	581	+	362	+	943
Total ..	655,591	659,969	1,315,551	754,724	776,556	1,531,280	+	99,133	+	116,596	+	215,729

NOTE.—Full-blood aborigines, to the number of 196 in 1911 and 144 in 1921, are excluded from the foregoing statement.

Decreases of population were shown in 17 of the 37 counties in the ten-year period 1911-1921. The largest of these were in the counties of Talbot, Bendigo, Grenville, Bogong and Gladstone, where the mining industry was in a depressed condition during that decade.

The north-eastern county of Moira, which is principally dependent on agriculture, showed a decline of about 10 per cent. The county of Bourke, which includes the metropolis, contained nearly 200,000 more people at the later census than at the earlier one. There were also large increases in the counties of Mornington, Evelyn, and Karkaroc.

Conjugal Condition, 1921. The conjugal condition of the people, as ascertained at the census of 1921, is shown in the following table:—

CONJUGAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE, 4TH APRIL, 1921.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Never married—			
Under age 15 years	231,086	224,850	455,936
Age 15 years and over	222,177	211,833	434,010
Married	277,183	282,494	559,677
Widowed	21,279	54,928	76,207
Divorced	1,092	1,221	2,313
Unspecified	1,907	1,230	3,137
Total	754,724	776,556	1,531,280

Occupations of the People, 1911 and 1921.

The number of breadwinners in each class of occupation at the last two censuses, and of the persons dependent on them, are shown hereunder:—

OCCUPATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF VICTORIA, AS RETURNED AT THE CENSUSES OF 1911 AND 1921.

Occupation.	1911.	1921.
Breadwinners—		
Professional	43,819	60,585
Domestic	62,175	58,225
Commercial	91,611	108,011
Transport and Communication	39,238	53,332
Industrial	187,773	234,245
Primary Producers	144,384	147,438
Indefinite	8,053	7,617
Total Breadwinners	577,053	669,453
Dependents	721,137	856,379
Occupation not stated	17,361	5,448
Total	1,315,551	1,531,280

Grades of Occupation. The grades of occupation of the population, as returned at the censuses of 1911 and 1921, were as follows :—

Grade.	Census of 1911.			Census of 1921.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Employer	59,713	7,315	67,028	40,636	4,071	44,707
Working on own account	37,753	11,987	49,740	82,436	14,624	97,060
Assisting but not receiving salary or wages ..	19,273	3,002	22,275	10,742	1,003	11,745
Receiving salary or wages	281,727	103,975	385,702	315,391	118,052	433,443
Unemployed	14,930	3,012	17,942	32,432	7,581	40,013
*Grade not applicable ..	229,594	528,264	757,858	266,661	629,013	895,674
Grade not stated	12,601	2,405	15,006	6,426	2,212	8,638
Total	655,591	659,960	1,315,551	754,724	776,556	1,531,280

* This relates principally to dependents and persons supported by voluntary and State contributions.

Occupancy of Private Dwellings. The mode of occupancy of private dwellings changed materially between the dates of the 1911 and 1921 censuses. Particulars for those two census years are given below :—

MODE OF OCCUPANCY OF PRIVATE DWELLINGS, TENEMENTS AND FLATS—CENSUSES OF 1911 AND 1921.

Occupied by—	4th April, 1921.				3rd April, 1911.	Increase during Ten years 1911-1921.
	Urban.		Rural.	Whole State.	Whole State.	
	Metro-politan.	Pro-vincial.				

NUMBER OF OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS.

Owner ..	45,096	18,778	66,998	130,872	118,716	12,156
Purchaser by Instalments	25,259	4,856	12,140	42,255	13,973	28,282
Tenant ..	83,067	14,280	30,398	127,745	119,562	8,183
Other and Un-specified ..	4,579	1,643	11,842	18,064	11,383	6,681
Total ..	158,001	39,557	121,378	318,936	263,634	55,302

The number of owner occupiers and purchasers by instalments of those dwellings for which definite information was given increased from 52.6 per cent. in the earlier to 57.5 per cent. in the later year. The prevailing scarcity of houses doubtless influenced many persons who were formerly classed as tenants to become prospective owners, by entering into arrangements to purchase their houses on the instalment principle.

Ages of the people.

The following table shows the ages of the people at the dates of the censuses of 1901, 1911, and 1921, and the proportionate numbers living in successive age groups:—

AGES OF THE PEOPLE AT CENSUSES, 1901, 1911, AND 1921.

Age Group (Years).	1901.		1911.		1921.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
0-5 ..	66,807	65,179	73,061	70,417	79,210	76,426
5-10 ..	72,052	70,493	65,615	63,904	79,452	77,680
10-15 ..	67,389	66,640	63,586	62,523	72,424	70,744
15-20 ..	58,896	59,717	67,804	67,719	66,020	64,589
20-25 ..	50,593	57,632	61,895	65,217	62,096	67,503
25-30 ..	45,469	52,832	51,955	55,651	62,845	69,647
30-35 ..	46,635	48,156	44,928	48,694	59,244	63,439
35-40 ..	46,723	43,390	41,308	44,549	50,696	53,790
40-45 ..	37,118	33,551	42,512	42,480	44,885	47,914
45-50 ..	24,137	21,810	41,015	38,477	39,556	42,378
50-55 ..	18,348	17,601	31,866	29,420	40,174	40,391
55-60 ..	15,351	15,157	19,486	18,457	35,923	34,841
60-65 ..	14,979	14,292	13,834	14,316	26,660	27,016
65-70 ..	16,080	13,843	11,432	12,603	15,054	15,717
70-75 ..	11,781	8,360	9,415	9,972	9,035	10,204
75-80 ..	5,733	4,231	7,275	6,934	5,415	6,826
80-85 ..	2,453	2,065	3,903	3,387	2,991	3,831
85-90 ..	603	587	1,133	1,129	1,336	1,672
90-100 ..	160	152	301	321	404	567
100 and over ..	12	11	8	10	9	8
Unspecified ..	2,564	1,759	3,259	3,780	1,295	1,373
Total ..	603,883	597,458	655,591	659,960	754,724	776,556

AGES OF THE PEOPLE AT CENSUSES, 1901, 1911, AND 1921—*continued*

Age Group (Years).	1901.		1911.		1921.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
PROPORTIONS PER CENT.						
0-5 ..	11·11	10·94	11·20	10·73	10·51	9·86
5-10 ..	11·98	11·83	10·06	9·74	10·55	10·02
10-15 ..	11·21	11·19	9·74	9·53	9·61	9·13
15-20 ..	9·80	10·03	10·40	10·32	8·76	8·33
20-25 ..	8·41	9·68	9·48	9·94	8·24	8·71
25-30 ..	7·56	8·87	7·96	8·48	8·34	8·98
30-35 ..	7·76	8·08	6·89	7·42	7·86	8·18
35-40 ..	7·77	7·28	6·33	6·79	6·73	6·94
40-45 ..	6·17	5·63	6·52	6·47	5·96	6·18
45-50 ..	4·02	3·66	6·29	5·87	5·25	5·47
50-55 ..	3·05	2·96	4·89	4·48	5·33	5·21
55-60 ..	2·55	2·54	2·99	2·81	4·77	4·49
60-65 ..	2·49	2·40	2·12	2·18	3·54	3·49
65-70 ..	2·67	2·32	1·75	1·92	2·00	2·03
70-75 ..	1·96	1·40	1·44	1·52	1·20	1·32
75-80 ..	·95	·71	1·11	1·06	·72	·88
80-85 ..	·41	·35	·60	·52	·40	·49
85-90 ..	·10	·10	·18	·17	·18	·22
90 and over ..	·03	·03	·05	·05	·05	·07
Specified Ages	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

Persons at
dependent
and support-
ing ages.

By adopting larger groups a clearer idea is obtained of the age distribution of the population at the three census periods. The subjoined table shows the numbers and

proportions of males and females at ages 0-15, 15-45, 45-65 and 65 and upwards. Persons of unspecified ages have been omitted :—

NUMBER OF PERSONS AT DEPENDENT AND SUPPORTING AGES IN VICTORIA AT THREE CENSUS ENUMERATIONS.

Census Year.	Number of Persons at—							
	Dependent Ages (under 15 years).		Supporting Ages.				Old Age (65 years and upwards).	
			15 to 45 years.		45 to 65 years.			
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
	1901	206,248	202,312	285,434	295,278	72,815	68,860	36,822	29,249
1911	202,262	196,844	310,402	324,310	106,201	100,670	33,467	34,356
1921	231,086	224,850	345,786	366,882	142,313	144,626	34,244	38,825
Proportions per cent.								
1901	34·30	33·96	47·47	49·57	12·11	11·56	6·12	4·91
1911	31·00	30·00	47·59	49·42	16·28	15·34	5·13	5·24
1921	30·67	29·00	45·89	47·33	18·89	18·66	4·55	5·01

Australian Born and other Population in State. The next table shows the length of residence in Australia, at the date of the census of 1921, of persons included in the population of the State who were born outside the Commonwealth :—

POPULATION OF VICTORIA AT THE CENSUS OF 4TH APRIL, 1921, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN AUSTRALIA.

No. of Completed Years of Residence.	Enumerated Population.			No. of Completed Years of Residence.	Enumerated Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.		Males.	Females.	Persons.
0 to 1 ..	8,559	9,588	18,147	90 and upwards	3	12	15
2 " 4 ..	1,389	1,595	2,984	Not stated ..	3,666	4,205	7,871
5 " 9 ..	24,576	20,039	44,615	Total ..	108,603	92,349	200,952
10 " 19 ..	12,586	7,338	19,924	Born in Commonwealth	646,121	684,207	1,330,328
20 " 39 ..	29,898	19,232	49,130	Grand Total	754,724	776,556	1,531,280
40 " 59 ..	17,226	16,034	33,260				
60 " 79 ..	10,570	14,080	24,650				
80 " 89 ..	130	226	356				

There were 17 persons—9 males and 8 females—aged 100 years and upwards in Victoria when the 1921 census was taken.

In the following statement the persons and dwellings to the square mile, the persons and rooms to a dwelling, and the persons to a room are shown for the seven census years 1861–1921 :—

DENSITY OF POPULATION.—RETURN FOR SEVEN CENSUS YEARS.

Year of Census.	Persons to the Square Mile (exclusive of Persons in Ships).	Inhabited Dwellings to the Square Mile.	Persons to the Inhabited Dwelling (exclusive of Persons in Ships).	Rooms to an Inhabited Dwelling.	Persons to a Room.
1861 ..	6·126	1·470	4·16	2·96	1·39
1871 ..	8·298	1·714	4·84	3·88	1·24
1881 ..	9·791	1·935	5·06	4·43	1·14
1891 ..	12·948	2·549	5·08	5·09	1·00
1901 ..	13·643	2·747	4·97	5·38	·93
1911 ..	14·915	3·103	4·80	5·51	·87
1921 ..	17·360	3·766	4·61	5·35	·85

The population returned at the census of 1921 represented a proportion of 17·4 persons to the square mile. In 1911 the proportion was 14·9; in 1901, 13·6; in 1891, 12·9; in 1881, 9·8; in 1871, 8·3; and in 1861, 6·1. There were 461 persons to every 100 inhabited dwellings in 1921—a number smaller than in any of the five preceding census years, but greater than in 1861.

BIRTHPLACES OF THE PEOPLE OF VICTORIA, 1921.

Birthplaces of the people, 1921. The census of 1921 gave the birthplaces of the people as follows :—

Birthplaces.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Commonwealth of Australia	646,023	684,113	1,330,136
New Zealand	5,460	5,750	11,210
British Isles	83,712	77,405	161,117
British India	1,003	537	1,540
Union of South Africa	818	854	1,672
Canada	523	340	863
Denmark	835	200	1,035
Germany	2,462	1,231	3,693
France	393	353	746
Italy	1,411	439	1,850
Sweden	1,021	94	1,115
Norway	637	89	726
Russia	601	342	943
Greece	505	53	558
United States	952	641	1,593
China	2,740	85	2,825
Japan	52	20	72
Switzerland	321	118	439
Other Countries	2,710	1,484	4,194
At Sea	524	587	1,111
Unspecified	2,021	1,821	3,842
Total	754,724	776,556	1,531,280
Allegiance—			
British	747,482	774,702	1,522,184
Foreign	6,873	1,496	8,369
Unstated	369	358	727

Australian born.

The residents of Victoria at the date of the Census who were born in the Commonwealth of Australia numbered 1,330,136 or 87 per cent. of the total population. The number born in Australia or New Zealand was 1,341,346, the ratio to population being 88 per cent. The corresponding ratios in 1911 and 1901 were 85 per cent. and 79 per cent. respectively.

The number of persons in the State in 1921 who were born in countries outside the British dominions was 19,486, or 1·3 per cent. of the population. This is a decrease as compared with 1911, when they numbered 21,252, or 1·6 per cent. of the population.

Allegiance.

The number of persons living in Victoria in 1921 who owed their allegiance to a foreign country was 8,369.

In the interval between the censuses of 1911 and 1921 natives of China decreased from 4,302 to 2,825. These figures, however, do not represent all the Chinese in the State, as there are persons of this race born in places outside of China who are resident in Victoria. The total number of the Chinese race

in Victoria (including Chinese born in Australia) was 5,601 in 1911 and 4,179 in 1921.

The enumerated population at each of the last seven censuses and the decennial increases, numerical and centesimal, were as shown hereunder:—

POPULATION OF VICTORIA (INCLUDING ABORIGINES) AT SEVEN CENSUS PERIODS.

Year of Census.	Both Sexes.			Males.			Females.		
	Population.	Increase in Ten-year period.		Population.	Increase in Ten-year period.		Population.	Increase in Ten-year period.	
		Numerical.	Centesimal.		Numerical.	Centesimal.		Numerical.	Centesimal.
1861	540,322	462,977	598·59	328,651	282,449	611·34	211,671	180,528	579·67
1871	731,528	191,206	35·39	401,050	72,399	22·03	330,478	118,807	56·13
1881	862,346	130,818	17·88	452,083	51,033	12·72	410,263	79,785	24·14
1891	1,140,405	278,059	32·24	598,414	146,331	32·37	541,991	131,728	32·11
1901	1,201,341	60,936	5·34	603,883	5,469	·91	597,458	55,467	10·23
1911	1,315,747	114,406	9·52	655,694	51,811	8·58	660,053	62,595	10·48
1921	1,531,424	215,677	16·39	754,804	99,110	15·12	776,620	116,567	17·66

NOTE.—The figures in this table include full-blood aboriginals. These numbered 144 in 1921, viz., 80 males and 64 females.

The increase in population between the censuses of 1911 and 1921, viz., 215,677, was larger than in any ten-year period subsequent to 1851-61, with the exception of the decennium 1881-91.

The masculinity of the population, or the ratio of males to females, at each of the last seven census enumerations, was as follows:—

Year.	Males to 100 Females.	
1861	..	155·26
1871	..	121·36
1881	..	110·19
1891	..	110·41
1901	..	101·08
1911	..	99·34
1921	..	97·19

The number of males to every 100 females in age-groups at the date of the 1921 census was as follows:—Age-group 0-10, 103·0; 10-20, 102·3; 20-40, 92·5; 40-60, 97·0; 60-80, 94·0; and 80 and over, 78·0. The ratios for certain age groups in the census years 1891, 1901, and 1911 are given in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, also the proportions existing between males and females at the census of 1911 in other parts of Australasia and England and Wales.

**Population of
Greater
Melbourne,
1924.**

The following table shows the area in acres and the enumerated population at the census of 1921 of the various municipalities of Greater Melbourne, also the number of persons to the acre in these municipalities and the estimated population at the end of 1924:—

**POPULATION, ETC., OF GREATER MELBOURNE AT
CENSUS OF 1921, AND 31st DECEMBER, 1924.**

Sub-District.	Area in Acres, 31st Dec., 1924.	Enumerated Population at the Census of 1921.	Estimated Population, 31st Dec., 1924.	Persons to the Acre, 31st Dec., 1924.
Melbourne City	7,555	103,251	103,700	13·7
Brighton City	3,308	21,235	25,400	7·7
Brunswick City	2,719	44,484	48,460	17·8
Camberwell City	8,322	23,835	33,090	4·0
Caulfield City	5,600	40,693	56,150	10·0
Coburg City	4,800	18,114	23,190	5·9
Collingwood City	1,139	34,239	34,000	29·8
Essendon City	4,000	35,269	39,500	9·9
Fitzroy City	923	34,938	34,600	37·5
Footscray City	3,982	33,775	42,030	10·5
Hawthorn City	2,402	29,165	31,580	13·1
Kew City	3,553	17,382	21,900	6·2
Malvern City	3,996	32,336	42,000	10·5
Northcote City	2,850	30,519	36,130	12·7
Oakleigh Town	2,658	6,076	7,380	2·8
Port Melbourne City	2,366	13,989	13,150	5·6
Prahran City	2,320	50,291	51,230	22·1
Preston Town	8,800	9,670	16,500	1·9
Richmond City	1,430	43,171	43,700	30·6
Sandringham City	3,740	11,316	16,000	4·3
South Melbourne City	2,303	46,371	47,200	20·5
St. Kilda City	2,049	38,579	41,100	20·1
Williamstown City	2,775	19,442	22,500	8·1
Remainder of District	82,076	40,537	45,480	·5
Shipping in Hobson's Bay and River .. ..	..	4,711	4,710	..
Total	165,666	782,979	885,700	5·3*

* In making this calculation persons in ships were excluded from the total population.

NOTE.—Oakleigh was proclaimed a town on 19th February, 1924.

**Density of
metropolitan
population.**

Fitzroy is the most thickly populated municipality, with about 38 persons to the acre; Richmond has 31; Collingwood, 30; Prahran, 22; South Melbourne, 20; St. Kilda City, 20; Brunswick, about 18; and Melbourne City 14 persons. There are large areas devoted to parks, gardens, and other reserves in many of the municipalities, so that the population is really living closer together than the figures in the table indicate. Melbourne City contains 1,969

acres of such reserves; Kew, 643; South Melbourne, 497; Williamstown, 446; Caulfield, 305; St. Kilda, 300; Richmond, 227; and Brighton, 191 acres. There are smaller areas in other districts, but they do not appreciably affect the question of density of population. The total area of all the reserves is 6,222½ acres; if these be excluded, the number of persons to the acre in the places named will be as follows:—Richmond, 36; South Melbourne, 26; St. Kilda, 24; Melbourne City, 19; Caulfield, 11; Williamstown, 10; Brighton, 8; and Kew, 7.

In the appended statement Victoria is shown in three divisions, the first being the Metropolitan (Greater Melbourne) District, or the area extending in all directions for a distance of 10 miles from the centre of the city; the second, the other urban districts, outside the limits of Greater Melbourne; and the third, the remaining portions of the State, which are termed "rural districts." The second division includes not only all existing cities, towns and boroughs, but also the larger towns in shires. The population of each of these divisions at the end of 1924, the ratio of its population to that of the whole State, and the number of persons to the square mile were as follows:—

URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION, 1924.

Divisions.	Estimated Area in Square Miles.	Estimated Population, 31st Decr., 1924		
		Total.	Proportion per cent.	Persons to the Sq. Mile.
Metropolitan	255	885,700	53.45	3,473
Other Urban	376	214,185	12.93	570
Total Urban	631	1,099,885	66.38	1,743
„ Rural	87,253	557,210	33.62	6.4
Total, Victoria ..	87,884	1,657,095	100.00	18.8

The urban is much greater than the rural population, and the population of the metropolis alone is nearly 53½ per cent. of that of the whole State. The results of each census (except that of 1901), after the census of 1861, showed an increase in the proportion of the total population resident in the metropolitan area. The marked nature of this increase will be apparent from the following statement:—

PROPORTION OF POPULATION OF GREATER MELBOURNE TO THAT OF THE WHOLE OF VICTORIA.

Year.	Per cent.	Year.	Per cent.
1861 (Census) ..	25.9	1901 (Census) ..	41.3
1871	28.9	1911	45.1
1881	32.8	1921	51.1
1891	43.0	1924 (Estimated) ..	53.4

**Greater Melbourne—
increase of
population.**

The next statement gives the population of the municipal districts in Greater Melbourne at the last three census dates. There was a slight falling-off in the cities of Melbourne and Port Melbourne between 1911 and 1921, but in all other districts there were increases during each decennial period. The most remarkable of these increases was in the City of Caulfield, where the population was enumerated as 9,541 in 1901 and 40,693 in 1921. Northcote, Malvern, and Camberwell also made great progress in the twenty-year period, their respective populations being trebled.

RETURN SHOWING THE POPULATION OF GREATER MELBOURNE IN 1901, 1911, AND 1921.

Municipal District.	Population at the Census of—		
	1901.	1911.	1921.
Cities—			
Melbourne	97,440	103,593	103,251
Brighton	10,047	12,083	21,235
Brunswick	24,141	32,215	44,484
Camberwell	8,602	12,551	23,835
Caulfield	9,541	15,919	40,693
Coburg	6,772	9,505	18,114
Collingwood	32,749	34,190	34,239
Essendon	17,426	23,749	35,269
Fitzroy	31,687	34,283	34,938
Footscray	18,318	23,643	33,775
Hawthorn	21,430	24,450	29,165
Kew	9,469	11,152	17,382
Malvern	10,619	15,969	32,306
Northcote	9,677	17,519	30,519
Port Melbourne	12,176	13,515	13,089
Prahran	40,441	45,367	50,290
Richmond	37,824	40,442	43,171
Sandringham	*	*	11,316
South Melbourne	40,619	46,190	46,873
St. Kilda	20,542	25,334	38,579
Williamstown	14,052	15,275	19,442
Towns—			
Oakleigh	1,273	2,151	6,076
Preston	4,059	5,049	9,670
Shires—			
Parts of Shires, forming remainder of District	15,445	24,873	40,557
Shipping in Hobson's Bay and River	1,730	4,220	4,711
Total	496,079	593,237	782,979

* Included with Moorabbin Shire in 1901 and 1911.

The numbers of males and females in Melbourne and suburbs at each census date from 1861 to 1921, and as estimated in 1924, are shown in the following statement. The proportion of males to the total population of the metropolis and the percentage of the population in the metropolitan area to that of the whole State are also given.

POPULATION OF MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS,
1861 TO 1924.

Year.	Census Population.			Males Percentage of Total Population.	Proportion of Metropolitan to State Population.
	Males.	Females.	Total.		
					per cent.
1861	71,300	68,616	139,916	51.0	25.9
1871	103,404	103,376	206,780	50.0	28.9
1881	139,006	143,941	282,947	49.1	32.8
1891	247,960	242,936	490,896	50.5	43.0
1901	235,203	260,876	496,079	47.4	41.3
1911	279,900	313,337	593,237	47.2	45.1
1921	370,016	412,963	782,979	47.3	51.1
1924 (estimated) ..	418,580	467,120	885,700	47.3	53.4

Outside Melbourne and suburbs, the most important towns in Victoria are Ballarat, comprising two municipalities; Geelong, three; Bendigo, two; and Warrnambool, Mordialloc, Castlemaine, Carrum, Wonthaggi, Mildura, Hamilton, and Ararat, one each. The populations of these, with their immediate suburbs, according to the census of 1921, and as estimated in 1924, were as follows:—

POPULATION OF CHIEF TOWNS IN VICTORIA, 1921 AND 1924.

Name of Town. •	Population.	
	1921 (Census).	1924 (Estimated).
Ballarat	38,500	40,600
Geelong	36,170	37,740
Bendigo	33,170	33,640
Warrnambool	7,739	8,000
Mordialloc	5,225	7,180
Castlemaine	7,000	7,120
Carrum	5,674	6,200
Wonthaggi	5,176	6,000
Mildura	5,100	5,700
Hamilton	5,098	5,120
Ararat	4,653	5,000

The following is a list of the other towns in Victoria which contained a population of 1,000 persons or over in 1924 :—

Town.	Estimated Population in 1924.	Town.	Estimated Population in 1924.
Bacchus Marsh ..	1,420	Merbein ..	2,420
Bairnsdale ..	3,330	Mornington ..	1,800
Beaufort ..	1,080	Mortlake ..	1,080
Beechworth ..	2,630	Morwell ..	1,420
Benalla ..	3,360	Murtoa ..	1,130
Camperdown ..	3,800	Nhill ..	1,450
Casterton ..	1,600	Numurkah ..	1,210
Charlton ..	1,140	Nyah ..	1,050
Clunes ..	1,200	Orbost ..	1,290
Cohuna ..	1,150	Port Fairy ..	2,030
Colac ..	4,270	Portland ..	2,700
Coleraine ..	1,520	Queenscliff ..	2,600
Creswick ..	1,750	Red Cliffs ..	1,020
Dandenong ..	4,030	Ringwood ..	2,050
Daylesford ..	3,420	Rochester ..	1,660
Dimboola ..	1,460	Rushworth ..	1,210
Donald ..	1,440	Rutherglen ..	1,170
Drouin ..	1,000	Sale ..	3,900
Echuca ..	3,930	Seymour ..	2,300
Euroa ..	1,760	Shepparton ..	4,050
Frankston ..	1,030	St. Arnaud ..	3,100
Healesville ..	2,510	Stawell ..	4,650
Heathcote ..	1,000	Swan Hill ..	2,530
Horsham ..	4,100	Tatura ..	1,220
Inglewood ..	1,100	Terang ..	2,280
Kerang ..	2,400	Traralgon ..	2,100
Kilmore ..	1,020	Wangaratta ..	3,800
Koroit ..	1,860	Warburton ..	1,200
Korumburra ..	2,500	Warracknabeal ..	2,460
Kyabram ..	1,540	Warragul ..	1,800
Kyneton ..	3,220	Wedderburn ..	1,000
Leongatha ..	1,510	Werribee ..	1,690
Lilydale ..	1,830	Wodonga ..	1,640
Maffra ..	1,560	Woodend ..	1,400
Maldon ..	1,600	Yarram ..	1,000
Mansfield ..	1,170	Yarrawonga ..	1,680
Maryborough ..	4,830	Yea ..	1,130

Rates of
increase of
population.

The average annual rates at which the population has increased (1) in the whole State, (2) in Melbourne and Suburbs, and (3) in the remainder of the State are shown hereunder :—

AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF INCREASE OF POPULATION IN THE WHOLE STATE, IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS, AND IN REMAINDER OF STATE, 1851 TO 1924.

Period.	In Victoria.		In Melbourne and Suburbs.		In Remainder of State.	
	Rate of Natural Increase.	Rate of Total Increase.	Rate of Natural Increase.	Rate of Total Increase.	Rate of Natural Increase.	Rate of Total Increase.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1851-60 ..	2·01	21·59	*	13·62	*	26·67
1861-70 ..	2·46	3·05	1·96†	3·91	2·63†	2·74
1871-80 ..	1·87	1·70	1·33	3·31	2·11	1·01
1881-90 ..	1·66	2·80	1·53	5·56	1·74	1·17
1891-1900 ..	1·47	·55	1·36	·25	1·55	·77
1901-10 ..	1·26	·89	1·05	1·74	1·42	·25
1911 ..	1·37	2·96	1·18	4·11	1·52	2·01
1912 ..	1·43	3·19	1·35	3·92	1·50	2·57
1913 ..	1·48	2·38	1·48	3·77	1·48	1·20
1914 ..	1·39	1·40	1·39	3·08	1·40	·07
1915 ..	1·34	·75	1·35	1·24	1·33	-2·54
1916 ..	1·25	-1·39	1·26	1·92	1·23	-4·48
1917 ..	1·32	·88	1·30	2·00	1·33	·23
1918 ..	1·16	1·42	1·13	2·05	1·19	·79
1919 ..	·85	4·58	·67	2·75	1·04	6·47
1920 ..	1·29	1·66	1·30	3·45	1·27	·13
1921 ..	1·27	1·49	1·26	2·35	1·28	·60
1922 ..	1·36	2·55	1·30	2·73	1·43	2·36
1923 ..	1·17	2·21	1·00	4·41	1·35	·12
1924 ..	1·21	1·95	1·06	3·85	1·37	·15

* Not available.

† Average 1862-1870.

It will be observed that the rate of natural increase (excess of births over deaths) has during all periods, except the years 1915, 1916, and 1920, been less in Melbourne than in other portions of the State, while the rate of total increase has usually been greater. It would appear from this that the metropolis has been gaining population at the expense of the country districts. The higher rate of natural increase in extra-metropolitan areas is due principally to the low death rates prevailing there, and this favorable mortality can only be partially accounted for by the migration from country to town of persons in indifferent health. The light mortality in country districts shows the advantage to be derived from a large increase in the population of these portions of the State.

The small natural increase in 1919, both in Melbourne and the remainder of the State, is accounted for by a heavy death rate in that year due to the existence of an epidemic of influenza. The rate of total increase in 1919 was large on account of the return to the State of soldiers, and the extra-Metropolitan districts benefited to a greater extent proportionally by their return than Melbourne and suburbs.

Population of
Australia and
New Zealand,
1861-1921.

The following table shows the population of each Australian State and New Zealand at each census from 1861 to 1921 :—

POPULATION OF THE SIX STATES OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, 1861-1921.

State.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.
Victoria ..	540,322	731,523	862,346	1,140,405	1,201,070	1,315,551	1,531,280
New South Wales ..	350,860	503,981	751,468	1,132,234	1,354,846	1,648,448	2,02,943*
Queensland ..	30,059	117,960	213,525	393,718	498,129	605,813	755,972
South Australia ..	126,830	185,626	279,865	320,431	363,157	411,868	499,027†
Western Australia ..	15,100	25,270	29,708	49,782	184,124	282,114	332,732
Tasmania ..	89,977	101,020	115,705	146,667	172,475	191,211	213,780
Australia ..	1,153,148	1,665,385	2,252,617	3,183,237	3,773,801	4,455,005	5,435,734
New Zealand ..	84,536	257,810	489,933	626,658	772,719	1,008,407	1,218,270

* Including Federal Territory, 2,572.

† Including Northern Territory, 3,867.

Population of
Australian
States and
New Zealand,
1924.

In the next table is shown the estimated population of each Australian State (excluding aborigines) and of New Zealand at the end of 1924, also the increase of population since the census of 1921, and the number of persons to the square mile.

POPULATION OF EACH AUSTRALIAN STATE AND NEW ZEALAND, AT 31st DECEMBER, 1924.

State.	Estimated Population at 31st December, 1924.			Increase since Census of 1921 (4th April).	Persons to the Square Mile.
	Males.	Females.	Total.		
Victoria ..	824,182	832,913	1,657,095	125,815	18·81
New South Wales ..	1,150,759	1,103,691	2,254,450	154,079	7·29
Queensland ..	440,115	394,779	834,894	78,922	1·25
South Australia ..	273,701	264,805	538,506	43,346	1·42
Western Australia ..	195,341	168,783	364,124	31,392	·37
Tasmania ..	108,569	109,270	217,839	4,059	8·31
Territories—					
Northern ..	2,538	1,059	3,597	— 270	·01
Federal ..	1,643	1,355	2,998	426	3·19
Australia ..	2,996,848	2,876,655	5,873,503	437,769	1·97
New Zealand ..	671,438	644,721	1,316,159	97,889	13·19

Particulars of the movement of population by migration and of the natural increase by excess of births over deaths are given for each State from the year 1851 on page 300 of the *Year-Book* for 1921-22.

The enumerated populations of Australasian capital cities during the past 53 years are shown in the following table. Melbourne during that time has made great progress, the most noticeable advance having been in the decennial period 1881-91, when the increase of population was 73 per cent. Between 1891 and 1901 the population remained almost stationary, but in the intercensal period 1901 to 1911 there was an increase of 97,158 and in the period 1911 to 1921 an increase of 189,742 persons. Sydney, which since 1902 has been the most populous city in Australasia, had 1,008,500 inhabitants in 1924. These two cities contain about 32 per cent. of the population of the Commonwealth.

POPULATION OF AUSTRALASIAN CAPITAL CITIES, 1871 TO 1924.

Capital City (with Suburbs).	Enumerated Population at the Census of—						Estimated Population, 31st Dec., 1924.	Persons to the Acre, 1924.
	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.		
Melbourne	206,780	282,947	490,896	496,079	593,237	782,979	885,700	5·42
Sydney ..	137,776	224,939	383,283	481,830	636,355	897,640	1,008,500	8·53
Brisbane ..	15,029	31,109	101,554	119,428	140,977	209,699	235,687	1·21
Adelaide ..	42,744	103,864	133,252	162,094	191,312	255,318	289,914	1·70
Perth ..	*	*	*	66,832	109,375	155,129	176,467	2·02
Hobart ..	26,004	27,248	33,450	34,604	40,335	52,385	56,507	1·21
Wellington	7,908	20,563	34,190	49,344	70,729	107,491	118,490	3·65

* Not available.

† Figures relate to 31st December, 1923.

‡ Figures relate

to 1st April, 1925.

**Density of
population in
capital cities.**

It will be noticed that the population of Sydney is more concentrated than that of any other metropolitan city, the population of Melbourne being spread over about one and a half times the corresponding area. In Perth there are two persons; in Adelaide, less than two persons; and in Brisbane and Hobart, about one person to the acre.

**Chinese and
Aborigines in
Victoria.**

In the subjoined table is given the population of Victoria at each of the last seven census enumerations, Chinese and Aborigines being distinguished.

POPULATION OF VICTORIA, DISTINGUISHING CHINESE AND ABORIGINES, AT SEVEN CENSUS PERIODS.

Year of Census.	Total Population—including Chinese and Aborigines.			Chinese.			Aborigines.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
1861	540,322	328,651	211,671	24,732	24,724	8	1,694	1,046	648
1871	731,528	401,050	330,478	17,935	17,899	36	1,330	784	546
1881	862,346	452,083	410,263	12,128	11,869	259	780	460	320
1891	1,140,405	598,414	541,991	9,377	8,772	605	565	325	240
1901	1,201,341	603,883	597,458	7,349	6,740	609	652	367	285
1911	1,315,747	655,694	660,053	5,601	4,956	645	643	340	303
1921	1,531,424	754,804	776,620	4,179	3,433	746	586	279	307

NOTE.—The population of the State at each census date since 1861, which appears in the above table and in the table on page 123, includes full-blood aboriginals. When comparisons are made elsewhere in this part with the populations at these census dates, the aboriginals referred to are not included.

**Arrivals and
departures of
Chinese.**

During each of the five years ended 1924 the number of Chinese who left Victoria was greater than the number who entered the State. The net decrease in the Chinese population in the last five years by excess of emigration over immigration was 647. The figures for each year are as follows:—

CHINESE IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.				Immigrants.	Emigrants.	Excess of— Arrivals (+), Departures (—).
1920	..	..	..	300	410	- 110
1921	..	..	..	315	591	- 276
1922	..	..	..	346	509	- 163
1923	..	..	..	462	487	- 25
1924	..	..	..	290	363	- 73
Total				1,713	2,360	- 647

**Decrease of
Aborigines.**

At the first colonization of Victoria the Aborigines were officially estimated to number about 5,000, but according to other and apparently more reliable estimates they numbered at that time not less than 15,000. When the colony was separated from New South Wales the number was officially stated to be 2,693. At the 1921 census there were enumerated 586 Aborigines, consisting of 144 of pure blood and 442 half-castes. Between the censuses of 1911 and 1921 there was a decrease of 57, the reduction in the pure race being 51 and, in the half-castes, 6. These figures indicate that the race is gradually but surely dying out. From the records of the Aborigines Board it would appear that most of the natives are under the care of that body, the numbers in the different stations being as under :—

**NUMBER OF ABORIGINES UNDER CARE AT
STATIONS IN VICTORIA, 1923-24.**

Station.	Aborigines.	Three-quarter and Half-castes.	Total.
Coranderrk	1	5	6
Lake Condah	2	35	37
Lake Tyers	52	155	207
Framlingham	1	32	33
Antwerp	3	..	3
Swan Hill	4	1	5
Other Dépôts	7	10	17
In Institutions .. .. .	..	3	3
In Service	2	4	6
Total	72	245	317*

* Including all who received intermittent rations during the year.

In addition to the above there are 37 half-castes at Antwerp and Cove Dam.

Of the Aborigines not enumerated in the table, some are residing elsewhere than at the stations, but receive supplies of food and clothing when they call; while others prefer to lead a wandering life and but rarely come under the notice of the Board.

During the year 1923-24, 13 deaths occurred—11 at Lake Tyers, 1 at Condah, and 1 at Coranderrk. There were 7 births—5 at Lake Tyers, and 2 at Coranderrk. The births recorded were all half-castes, while, of the deaths, 5 were those of full-blood Aborigines, and 8 of half-castes.

The amount expended on the maintenance of Aborigines during the year was £6,857. The following statement shows the net cost of Aborigines in Victoria (including cost of administration) from 1851 to 1924 :—

Amount expended	£433,917
Revenue from stations paid into the Consolidated Revenue ..	17,367*
Net cost	£416,550

* This includes a sum of £3,397 paid into a Trust Fund in the Treasury.

With a view to restricting the immigration of Asiatics and other coloured persons the Commonwealth Parliament passed the Immigration Restriction Act in 1901, which provides that any person, who, when asked to do so by a public officer, fails to write out from dictation and sign in the presence of the officer a passage of fifty words in any prescribed language, is prohibited from landing in Australia. Certificates of exemption are granted in certain cases, and members of the military and naval forces, as well as the master and crew of any public vessel of any government, are excepted. The Act appears to have achieved its purpose, judging by the small number of coloured persons who have been admitted into the Commonwealth since it commenced to operate. The following are the numbers of coloured persons, other than Chinese, who have entered or left Victoria since 1st April, 1901 :—

IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION OF COLOURED PERSONS (OTHER THAN CHINESE) FROM 1st APRIL, 1901, TO 31st DECEMBER, 1924.

Year.	Immigrants.	Emigrants.	Excess of— Arrivals (+) Departures (—)
From 1st April, 1901, to 31st Dec., 1905	1,118	1,311	— 193
1906-10	382	495	— 113
1911-15	491	406	+ 85
1916	80	92	— 12
1917	67	208	— 141
1918	52	46	+ 6
1919	46	151	— 105
1920	59	86	— 27
1921	70	64	+ 6
1922	65	47	+ 18
1923	76	64	+ 12
1924	109	53	+ 56
Total	2,615	3,023	— 408

The number of coloured persons in Victoria was ascertained at the census of 1921. Chinese were found to number 4,179, and other coloured persons 1,932—a total of

6,111, as compared with 7,631 at the previous census in 1911. The figures for the different races are given below :—

NUMBER OF PERSONS OF COLOURED RACES (EXCLUSIVE OF FULL-BLOOD ABORIGINES) IN VICTORIA AT THE CENSUS OF 1921.*

Race.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Full-blood.	Half-caste.	Full-blood.	Half-caste.	Full-blood.	Half-caste.
Asiatic—						
Chinese	2,918	515	244	502	3,162	1,017
Hindus	431	62	15	50	446	112
Japanese.. .. .	37	12	13	12	50	24
Syrians	292	20	240	31	532	51
Cingalese.. .. .	19	9	2	4	21	13
Other	55	14	23	9	78	23
African—						
Negroes	11	24	..	12	11	36
Other	3	3	1	1	4	4
American—						
American Indians	1	..	..	3	1	3
Other	8	8	1	9	9	17
Polynesians—						
Maoris	2	3	1	2	3	5
Other	7	9	1	8	8	17
Australian Aborigines (H.C.) .. .. .	..	199	..	243	..	442
Indefinite	14	1	7	..	21	1
Total	3,798	879	548	886	4,346	1,765

Under the "Commonwealth Naturalization Act No. 11 Naturalization. of 1903," the right to issue certificates of naturalization was taken from the States, and vested in the Commonwealth. This Act came into force on 1st January, 1904. An epitome of its principal provisions is given in the *Year-Book* for 1920-21, page 340.

The number of persons naturalized in Victoria in the year 1924 was 162; in the fifty-four years, 1871 to 1924 inclusive, it was 15,760.

VITAL STATISTICS.

**Registration
of Births,
Deaths, and
Marriages.**

The present official system of compulsory registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Victoria has been in force since 1853, and the registers—framed on the best models—are replete with all necessary information bearing on the family history of the people. The statutory duties under the Registration Acts are performed by the Government Statist, who has control over the local registrars of births and deaths, and the registrars of marriages, and (so far as regards their registration duties) over the clergymen who celebrate marriages. Copies of entries certified by him or by the Assistant Government Statist are *prima facie* evidence in the Courts of Australia of the facts to which they relate. At the head office in Melbourne there is kept for reference a complete collection of all registrations effected since 1st July, 1853, as well as originals or certified copies of all existing church records relating to earlier periods, as far back as 1837.

Applicants for searches or certificates of births, deaths, or marriages should, in applying to the Government Statist, furnish particulars of the date and place of the event; also the names of the parties in the case of a marriage, and the name, age (if a death), and parentage in the case of a birth or death. The fee for a search in the Official Records, or an extract of an entry, is 2s. 6d., and for a certificate, including the cost of search, 7s. 6d. (except where the case appears in the records of the current quarter, when 5s. only is charged). For a search in the early church records, prior to 1st July, 1853, the fee is only 1s., a further sum of 1s. being payable if a certificate is required.

The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contains on pages 301 to 303 a statement of the law relating to marriages and the registration of births and deaths in Victoria. Since 1915, when the Acts were consolidated, minor validating and other Acts (Nos. 2775, 2998, 3127, and 3282) have been passed.

MARRIAGES.

Marriages.

Marriages in Victoria in 1924 numbered 13,296. This was the third highest number for one year in the history of the State, being 1,602 less than the greatest number previously

recorded—that for 1920. The figures for each of the last twenty years are as follows :—

MARRIAGES IN EACH YEAR, 1905 TO 1924.

Year.	No. of Marriages.	Year.	No. of Marriages.
1905	8,774	1915	12,832
1906	8,930	1916	11,341
1907	9,575	1917	9,506
1908	9,334	1918	9,156
1909	9,431	1919	11,706
1910	10,240	1920	14,898
1911	11,088	1921	13,676
1912	11,738	1922	12,996
1913	11,324	1923	13,126
1914	11,830	1924	13,296

The marriages in Australia for 1924 numbered 45,869, as against 44,541 in the previous year, 44,731 in 1922, 46,869 in 1921, 51,552 in 1920, and 40,540 in 1919. Of the total for 1924, 13,296 took place in Victoria, 18,072 in New South Wales, 6,234 in Queensland, 4,121 in South Australia, 2,596 in Western Australia, 1,529 in Tasmania, 17 in the Northern Territory, and 4 in the Federal Capital Territory.

Marriage rates. The ordinary marriage rate—per 1,000 of the total population—like birth and death rates similarly estimated, is somewhat unreliable in comparatively newly settled countries like Australia, especially in earlier periods, but, as it affords a ready and approximate comparison between years not widely separated, the figures relating to Victoria are given in the following table for the last ten years :—

MARRIAGE RATES, 1915 TO 1924.

Year.	Marriage Rate.	Year.	Marriage Rate.
1915	8·96	1920	9·85
1916	8·02	1921	8·90
1917	6·73	1922	8·27
1918	6·43	1923	8·16
1919	7·95	1924	8·10

The rates in the other States, New Zealand, and England and Wales in 1924 were as follows:—New South Wales, 8·11; Queensland, 7·55; South Australia, 7·78; Western Australia, 7·22; Tasmania, 7·12; New Zealand, 7·90; and England and Wales, 7·65.

The marriage rate for 1920 was the highest recorded in the history of the State. This was mainly due to the marriages of a large number of returned soldiers who had settled down to ordinary civilian life.

Marriages to marriageable men and women. The marriages in proportion to the population, to the unmarried men and widowers aged 21 to 55, and to the unmarried women and widows aged 18 to 50, in each census year, 1857 to 1921, are given in the following table :—

MARRIAGES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION AND OF SINGLE MEN AND WOMEN, 1857 TO 1921.

Year of Census.	Exclusive of Chinese and Aborigines.						
	Enumerated Population.	Number of Unmarried and Widowed.		Marriages.	Proportion of Marriages per 1,000 of the—		
		Men (aged 21 to 55).	Women (aged 18 to 50).		Population.	Unmarried and Widowed Men (aged 21 to 55).	Unmarried and Widowed Women (aged 18 to 50).
1857 ..	383,668	88,456	18,128	4,465	11·64	50·48	246·30
1861 ..	513,896	98,665	24,009	4,528	8·81	45·89	188·60
1871 ..	712,263	77,078	40,836	4,715	6·62	61·17	115·46
1881 ..	849,438	77,250	75,098	5,732	6·75	74·20	76·33
1891 ..	1,130,463	133,576	113,276	9,007	7·97	67·43	79·51
1901 ..	1,193,340	123,691	137,267	8,468	7·10	68·46	61·69
1911 ..	1,309,950	132,642	158,556	10,984	8·39	82·81	69·28
1921 ..	1,531,280	136,569	163,488	14,009	9·15	102·57	85·69

NOTE.—The figures in this table relate to the twelve months of which the date of census is the central point.

Factors in marriage rates. An examination of the figures for the eight census periods shows how the crude marriage rate is affected by the proportion of marriageable persons in the community. The maximum marriage rate (per 1,000 of population), which occurred in 1857, was co-incidental with the highest proportion of marriageable

persons, while the minimum rate—in 1871—was associated with the lowest proportion of such persons. A further examination of the figures shows that the ordinary marriage rate is more directly affected by the proportion of eligible men than by that of eligible women in the population. Thus, the percentage of single women aged 18 to 50 rose from 4·7 in 1857 to 10·7 in 1921, while that of single men aged 21 to 55 fell from 23 to 8·9 in the same period. After allowing for the more uniform distribution of males and females of marriageable ages in the later years, the decrease in the percentage of marriageable men coincides fairly closely with the decline in the ordinary marriage rate. The female marriage rates show that, of females aged 18 to 50, the proportion entering wedlock each year fell from about 1 in 4 in 1857, and nearly 1 in 5 in 1861, to 1 in 16 in 1901, 1 in 15 in 1911, and nearly 1 in 12 in 1921.

The large number of discharged soldiers, who were settling down to civilian life was, responsible to a great extent for the high crude marriage rate recorded in 1921. This factor, however, only partially accounts for the very high proportion of marriageable men and women who entered wedlock in that year in comparison with the years 1901 and 1911, as, quite apart from the effect produced by the marriages of discharged soldiers, the improvement in the rate shown in 1911 became more prominent in the next decennial year.

Marriages
to marriage-
able males
in Austral-
asia.

The following statement shows for the period 1900-02 and for the years 1911 and 1921 the number of marriages per 1,000 marriageable males in Victoria, the other States of Australia, and New Zealand. It has been assumed that marriageable males are unmarried men and widowers aged 21 to 55 :—

MARRIAGES PER 1,000 MARRIAGEABLE MALES IN AUSTRALASIA.

	1900-02.	1911.	1921.	Increase per cent. in 20 Years.
Victoria	56·0	67·3	81·7	45·9
New South Wales	58·3	68·0	73·9	26·8
Queensland	41·6	54·9	62·1	49·3
South Australia	56·8	81·3	88·7	56·2
Western Australia	41·9	45·8	62·5	49·2
Tasmania	65·7	69·3	81·9	24·7
Australia	55·7	64·7	77·2	38·6
New Zealand	55·1	58·8	78·9	43·2

In each State the proportion of marriageable men who married during the year 1921 was greater than that for the period 1900-02 or for 1911, the excess over the proportion for the earlier period, expressed as a percentage, being 56 in South Australia, 49 in Western Australia, 49 in Queensland, 46 in Victoria, nearly 27 in New South Wales, and nearly 25 in Tasmania. The comparatively low marriage rates for men in Western Australia and Queensland were due to the unequal distribution of marriageable men and women. At the 1921 census, to every 1,000 unmarried and widowed women aged 18 to 50 the numbers of bachelors and widowers between 21 and 55 years of age in each State and Australia were as follows :—Victoria, 837; New South Wales, 1,015; Queensland, 1,230; South Australia, 892; Western Australia, 1,330; Tasmania, 889; and Australia, 984.

Marriageable persons in Metropolis and Country. An examination of the sex distribution of persons residing in Greater Melbourne and the rest of the State discloses the fact that, whether the comparison be made for all ages or for marriageable ages only, there is a great preponderance of women over men in the metropolis, while in the remainder of the State the men are in excess. In Greater Melbourne in 1921 there were 63,337 marriageable men aged 21 to 55, as compared with 95,024 marriageable women aged 18 to 50. In the rest of the State the eligible men and women at those ages numbered 73,232 and 68,464 respectively. It is thus seen that, while there was a surplus of 31,687 marriageable females in the metropolis as compared with males, there was a deficiency of 4,768 in the country.

The number of such males to 1,000 marriageable females in the metropolis was 667, while in the rest of the State the corresponding number was 1,070.

The following statement shows the proportions of marriageable men and women per 1,000 of the respective populations in Greater Melbourne and the rest of the State :—

MARRIAGEABLE MEN AND WOMEN PER 1,000 OF POPULATION IN GREATER MELBOURNE AND THE REST OF THE STATE, 1921.

District.	Males.	Females.
Greater Melbourne ..	82·6	124·0
Rest of the State ..	95·8	89·5

The marriage rates of marriageable men and women at different periods of life have been computed for various age groups at each of four census periods, and are shown in the following table :—

MARRIAGES PER 1,000 MARRIAGEABLE MEN AND WOMEN IN AGE GROUPS.

Age Group.	Men.				Women.			
	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.
15-21 ..	..	..	..	..	23·6	18·8	23·3	25·7
21-25* ..	44·3	44·6	55·2	64·9	106·0	87·2	105·6	129·8
25-30 ..	85·9	90·5	118·6	148·2	100·5	84·7	112·1	135·3
30-35 ..	75·2	82·1	101·1	126·0	66·4	57·9	66·0	79·6
35-40 ..	51·1	62·6	72·9	91·1	46·4	37·2	43·0	43·3
40-45 ..	33·4	39·9	44·7	50·5	27·7	22·3	20·7	22·2
45-50 ..	25·9	29·8	34·9	35·0	17·8	14·3	5·5	13·5
50 and upwards	9·1	9·1	12·1	12·8	4·2	2·4	2·6	3·1

* In the case of men, 20-25.

The probabilities of bachelors and spinsters marrying and of widowers and widows re-marrying have been obtained by comparing their marriages at specified ages with the respective numbers in the community at those ages at the census of 1921. The marriages per 1,000 of the above-mentioned persons are given in the following table for the year mentioned —

MARRIAGES PER 1,000 BACHELORS, WIDOWERS, SPINSTERS, AND WIDOWS, 1921.

Age Group.	Marriages to every 1,000—			
	Bachelors.	Widowers.	Spinsters.	Widows.
15-21 ..	..	..	25·7	..
21-25* ..	64·8	114·3	129·5	179·4
25-30 ..	147·4	165·2	134·1	132·2
30-35 ..	123·3	170·4	77·5	84·4
35-40 ..	85·4	129·4	37·5	64·8
40-45 ..	40·8	105·6	18·9	31·3
45-50 ..	25·7	71·5	10·6	18·9
50 and upwards	6·7	20·2	3·3	2·9

* In the case of men, 20-25.

The figures show that the probability of a widower marrying within a year is greater than that of a bachelor of similar age, and further, that the difference in favour of the former is much greater at ages

over 30 than at earlier ages. Comparing the marriage rates for widows with those for spinsters it is seen that at every age under 50, except the age group 25-30, the chance of a widow marrying is considerably greater than that of a spinster of the same age. As 78 per cent. of both widowers and widows are over 50 years—a period of life when the chance of re-marrying is small—and the great majority of the bachelors and spinsters are under that age—a period when the probability of marrying is much greater—it was to be expected that the rates for the two former would be much lower than those for the two latter sections. In proportion to their respective numbers, the marriages of widowers were only slightly more than half as numerous as those of bachelors, and the marriages of widows were less than one-fourth of those of spinsters.

The ages of bridegrooms and brides who were married in 1924 are shown in combination for various groups in the table which follows:—

AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN COMBINATION IN VICTORIA, 1924.

Ages of Bride- grooms.	Ages of Brides.																			Total Bridegrooms.
	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 40.	40 to 45.	45 to 50.	50 to 55.	55 to 60.	60 to 65.	65 to 70.	70 and over.	
15	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
16	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
17	1	2	3	4	3	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
18	5	15	17	10	3	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
19	...	1	2	12	23	38	32	16	38	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	165
20	12	30	45	36	37	65	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	234
21 to 25	5	54	112	263	327	355	1,951	501	75	13	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,659
25 to 30	12	37	85	148	201	1,842	1,700	345	55	9	2	...	...	...	...	...	4,436
30 to 35	1	2	10	22	31	63	605	883	552	125	23	4	1	1	...	...	...	2,323
35 to 40	1	5	9	12	6	144	298	305	193	53	15	3	2	...	...	...	1,046
40 to 45	4	6	8	56	87	133	123	55	27	5	1	...	...	...	507
45 to 50	2	...	19	35	63	90	49	44	16	5	...	...	1	324
50 to 55	5	14	20	41	42	41	28	11	6	...	...	208
55 to 60	3	7	7	22	24	35	21	11	5	...	...	135
60 to 65	1	4	5	11	18	18	10	11	5	...	83
65 to 70	2	4	4	5	15	10	10	13	9	2	74
70 to 75	2	...	2	1	2	5	2	...	14
75 and over	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	2	1	2	2	11
Total Brides	1	1	10	101	235	487	607	690	4,739	3,540	1,510	673	276	203	104	55	41	18	5	13,296

Although age inequalities among contracting parties were relatively few, they were striking in degree. Thus two men between 45 and 50 married women under 21, while sixteen women between 35 and 45

were married to men who were under 25 years. The great majority of the parties were, however, of suitable ages. Of every 1,000 men married during the year, 706 were older and 195 younger than their brides, and 99 were of the same age as their partners.

Proportion of
marriages
at various
ages.

The proportions of both sexes marrying in the various age groups are shown in the succeeding table for the periods 1881-90 and 1911-20, and the year 1924:—

PROPORTIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES MARRYING AT DIFFERENT AGES, 1881-90, 1911-20, AND 1924.

Age Group.			Proportion per 1,000 of total—					
			Bridegrooms.			Brides.		
			1881-90.	1911-20.	1924.	1881-90.	1911-20.	1924.
Under 15	...	...	...	...	...	·15	·07	·16
15 to 16	...	...	...	...	·08	1·17	·75	·75
16 to 17	...	...	·03	·16	·23	6·53	3·79	7·60
17 to 18	...	...	·29	·62	1·20	20·32	12·65	17·67
18 to 19	...	...	1·46	3·81	4·29	42·94	29·53	36·63
19 to 20	...	...	5·62	9·53	12·41	65·03	44·34	45·65
20 to 21	...	...	15·19	16·82	17·60	73·84	54·41	51·89
21 to 25	...	...	321·02	255·25	275·20	432·34	360·34	356·42
25 to 30	...	...	365·48	356·68	333·63	223·83	286·34	266·24
30 to 35	...	...	134·57	166·37	174·71	62·07	105·01	113·57
35 to 40	...	...	58·29	84·52	78·67	29·53	50·44	50·62
40 to 45	...	...	32·54	42·03	38·13	17·10	24·21	20·76
45 to 50	...	...	24·77	28·21	24·37	12·23	15·13	15·27
50 to 55	...	...	18·40	16·55	15·64	6·74	6·60	7·82
55 to 60	...	...	11·49	9·65	10·15	3·40	3·29	4·14
60 and over	...	...	10·85	9·80	13·69	2·78	3·10	4·81
Not stated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	...	...	1,000·00	1,000·00	1,000·00	1,000·00	1,000·00	1,000·00

Of every 1,000 women who were married during 1924, 517 were under 25 years, and 266 were aged 25-30, as against 506 and 236 at corresponding ages in the years 1911 to 1920, and 642 and 224 in the years 1881 to 1890.

Age at
marriage.

A high proportion of re-marriages has the effect of increasing the average marrying age of bridegrooms and brides. This is readily seen by comparing for 1924 the mean

age at marriage of bachelors, 28·51, with that of divorced men, and of widowers—38·68 and 47·24 respectively. The average age of spinsters marrying was 25·66, as against 35·00 for divorced women and 41·04 for widows. The average age of men marrying women under 45 and of their brides for certain periods since 1870 is shown in the following table :—

MEAN AGES AT MARRIAGE.

Period.	Average Age of—	
	Brides under 45.	Bridegrooms of Brides under 45.
	Years.	Years.
1870-74	24·13	29·93
1880-84	23·83	28·61
1890-94	24·66	28·66
1900-04	25·44	29·70
1905-09	25·88	29·80
1910	25·88	29·58
1911	25·81	29·46
1912	25·75	29·17
1913	25·66	29·01
1914	25·71	29·01
1915	25·68	28·75
1916	26·07	29·48
1917	26·03	29·69
1918	25·95	29·66
1919	26·14	29·64
1920	26·00	29·21
1921	25·92	29·26
1922	26·05	29·31
1923	25·91	29·20
1924	25·73	29·01

The mean age of women under 45 who married in 1924 differed very slightly from the average of the previous five years. In Victoria in 1924 the mean marrying age of all brides was 26·59, and of all bridegrooms, 29·86.

Marriage records show that, of the persons married in Victoria during 1924, 88·7 per cent. were born in Australia, 9·4 per cent. in the United Kingdom, and ·9 per cent. in other British Possessions, and that only small proportions, about 1·5 per cent. of the bridegrooms and ·6 per cent. of the brides, were natives of foreign countries. The numbers born in

Birthplaces
of persons
marrying.

Australia and other countries are shown in the subjoined table for the years 1913 and 1924 :—

BIRTHPLACES OF PERSONS MARRIED, 1913 AND 1924.

Where Born.	Bridegrooms.		Brides.	
	1913.	1924.	1913.	1924.
Australia	9,628	11,484	10,274	12,102
New Zealand	155	79	82	84
England and Wales	972	1,100	644	771
Scotland	213	269	141	182
Ireland	126	119	83	57
Other British Possessions	40	43	24	27
Germany	46	30	19	8
Russia	17	13	3	2
Italy	15	33	12	13
United States	30	22	14	9
Other Foreign Countries	82	104	28	41
Total	11,324	13,296	11,324	13,296

Marriages in quarters. Victorian experience shows that, prior to 1919, the Autumn quarter was the most frequently selected season for marrying. During the years 1919 to 1924, however, the greatest proportion of marriages took place in the Spring, except in the year 1920. The numbers celebrated in the different seasons in 1924 were—3,596 in the Spring, 3,581 in the Autumn, 3,125 in the Winter, and 2,994 in the Summer.

Conjugal condition of persons marrying. The following statement shows the percentages of persons in each conjugal condition who have married in different periods since 1870 :—

CONJUGAL CONDITION OF PERSONS MARRYING, 1871-1924.

Conjugal Condition.	Percentage of total Marriages.					
	1871-80.	1881-90.	1891-1900.	1901-10.	1911-20.	1924.
Bachelors and Spinsters..	80·59	85·84	87·22	88·46	90·31	90·48
Bachelors and Widows ..	7·10	4·72	4·23	3·66	3·15	3·10
Widowers and Spinsters..	7·75	6·17	6·07	5·70	4·81	4·47
Widowers and Widows ..	4·56	3·27	2·48	2·18	1·73	1·95

NOTE.—In this table divorced men and women are included with bachelors and spinsters respectively.

Of every 1,000 persons of each sex married in Victoria during 1924, 64 were widowers and 51 were widows, as against 65 and 47 respectively in 1923, 71 and 55 in 1922, 64 and 54 in 1921, and 61 and 55 in 1920.

Divorced persons re-marrying. The number of divorced persons re-married during 1924 was 397, which was 4 less than the number for the preceding year. Of the 135,984 persons married during the last five years, divorced persons numbered 1,816, or 1 in every 75 persons, as compared with 1 in every 103 in the preceding five-year period. The following are the numbers of divorced persons who have re-married since 1919 :—

DIVORCED PERSONS RE-MARRYING, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.				Males.	Females.	Total.
1920	..	..	..	158	146	304
1921	..	..	..	188	165	353
1922	..	..	..	182	179	361
1923	..	..	..	209	192	401
1924	..	..	..	196	201	397

The divorced persons in the State at the census of 1921 numbered 2,313, of whom 1,092 were men and 1,221 women. A comparison of the re-marriages of divorced males and females during 1921 with these numbers shows that, according to the experience of that year, 17·2 per cent. of the males and 13·5 per cent. of the females re-marry each year. As these proportions greatly exceed the rates for other sections of the community, it is evident that many divorces are obtained with a view to early re-marriage.

Marriages of minors. The proportions of bridegrooms and brides under 21 years of age are given in the subjoined table for the years 1920 to 1924 :—

Year.				Percentage under 21 years of age.	
				Bridegrooms.	Brides.
1920	..	..	..	2·66	13·46
1921	..	..	..	2·83	14·09
1922	..	..	..	3·29	13·63
1923	..	..	..	3·51	15·14
1924	..	..	..	3·58	16·03

Marriages in
religious
denomina-
tions.

The numbers and proportions of marriages solemnized according to the rites of the principal religious denominations and of those performed by registrars of marriages, for the years 1923 and 1924, are shown in the following table:—

MARRIAGES IN VARIOUS DENOMINATIONS.

Denomination.	1923.		1924.	
	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
Church of England	3,756	28·61	3,863	29·06
Roman Catholic Church	2,399	18·28	2,461	18·51
Presbyterian Church	2,528	19·26	2,474	18·61
Methodist Church	1,852	14·11	1,830	13·76
Congregational Church	850	6·48	885	6·66
Baptist Church	641	4·88	597	4·49
Lutheran Church	47	·36	63	·47
Church of Christ	272	2·07	279	2·10
Salvation Army	57	·43	43	·32
Hebrew	46	·35	59	·44
Other Sects	170	1·30	84	·63
Registrars of Marriages	508	3·87	658	4·95
Total	13,126	100·00	13,296	100·00

Marriages by Anglican clergymen represented 29·06 per cent. of the total in 1924, as compared with 28·61 per cent. in the previous year, 29·02 per cent. in 1922, 29·10 per cent. in 1921, 29·56 per cent. in 1920, 25·44 per cent. in 1911 and 21·18 per cent. in the period 1904-08. Excepting the ratios for the Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist churches, there were great disparities between the proportion of marriages celebrated according to the rites of each of the principal denominations and the proportionate number of adherents possessed by it in the community.

In 1924, 4·95 per cent., in 1923, 3·87 per cent., in 1922, 3·35 per cent., in 1921, 2·85 per cent., and, in 1914 and 1913, 2·6 per cent. of the total marriages in Victoria were celebrated by lay registrars, as against 1 per cent. in 1909, and about 7 per cent. in the decade ended 1890. The decrease which occurred between the earlier period and 1909 was due to the competition of matrimonial agencies which sprang up about 1894, and the increase since 1909 has probably been due to the *Marriage Act*

Civil
marriages.

1909 (now incorporated in the *Marriage Act* 1915—No. 2691) permitting the removal from the list of registered clergymen of the names of those who make a business of celebrating marriages. The proportion of civil marriages in Victoria is only about one-seventh of the proportion in England and Wales (according to the latest available figures), and is approximately one-fourth of the proportion in New Zealand.

Registered clergymen. The ministers qualified by registration to celebrate marriages in Victoria numbered 1,645 on 31st December, 1924. The numbers of ministers in each denomination (excepting Jews and Quakers) and lay registrars of marriages were as follows :—

REGISTERED MINISTERS OF EACH DENOMINATION.

Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.	Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.
Church of England ..	423	Ballarat Town Mission ..	1
Roman Catholic ..	342	New Church ..	1
Presbyterian ..	304	Greek Orthodox Church ..	1
Methodist ..	272	Unitarian ..	1
Congregational ..	68	International Bible	
Baptist ..	90	Students' Association ..	1
Church of Christ ..	71	Latter Day Saints (Mor-	
Lutheran ..	23	mons) ..	1
Salvation Army ..	29	Open Brethren ..	1
Latter Day Saints (Re-			
organized) ..	4	Total Clergymen ..	1,645
Seventh Day Adventist ..	7	Lay Registrars of Mar-	
Catholic Apostolic ..	2	riages ..	23
Free Christian ..	2		
Australian Church ..	1	Grand Total ..	1,668

Marriages of Jews and Quakers are exempted from the law relating to marriages in Victoria, and are deemed legal and valid if celebrated according to their respective usages.

BIRTHS.

Number of births. The number of births registered in Victoria during the year 1924 was 36,139, of which 18,500 were of males and 17,639 of females. This was 263 more than the number recorded for the preceding year. Still-births, which are excluded from

both births and deaths, numbered 1,089, and corresponded to a ratio of 3·0 per 100 infants born alive in 1924. There were 1,049 male to every 1,000 female births in 1924, as compared with 1,073 in 1923, 1,068 in 1922, 1,057 in 1921, and 1,062 in 1920. The figures for each year since 1904 are as follows :—

BIRTHS IN VICTORIA, 1905 TO 1924.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1905 ..	15,523	14,584	30,107	1915 ..	17,821	17,189	35,010
1906 ..	15,716	15,128	30,844	1916 ..	17,625	16,614	34,239
1907 ..	15,989	15,380	31,369	1917 ..	17,222	15,813	33,035
1908 ..	16,073	15,028	31,101	1918 ..	16,176	15,425	31,601
1909 ..	16,092	15,457	31,549	1919 ..	16,227	15,394	31,621
1910 ..	16,411	15,026	31,437	1920 ..	18,648	17,566	36,214
1911 ..	16,944	16,100	33,044	1921 ..	18,289	17,304	35,593
1912 ..	18,244	17,573	35,817	1922 ..	18,740	17,548	36,288
1913 ..	18,436	17,542	35,978	1923 ..	18,567	17,303	35,876
1914 ..	18,549	17,676	36,225	1924 ..	18,500	17,639	36,139

The births in Australia were fewer by 3,057 in 1924 than in 1914, although in the intervening period the population had increased by 17·4 per cent. The number in 1924 was 134,926, as compared with 135,221 in 1923, 137,496 in 1922, 136,200 in 1921, 136,407 in 1920, 122,290 in 1919, 125,739 in 1918, 129,965 in 1917, 131,426 in 1916, 134,871 in 1915, and 137,983 in 1914. Of the total recorded for 1924, 36,139 occurred in Victoria, 53,705 in New South Wales, 19,708 in Queensland, 11,592 in South Australia, 8,301 in Western Australia, 5,383 in Tasmania, 57 in the Northern Territory, and 41 in the Federal Capital Territory.

Birth rates. In young communities, birth rates calculated per 1,000 of the population are to some extent unreliable and misleading. In the earlier periods, when, owing to immigration, the population consists for the most part of men and women at the reproductive period of life, the rates are obviously high. As time proceeds, however, notwithstanding that immigration of reproductive adults may be maintained, the proportion of such adults to the total population must diminish, and with it, of necessity, the birth rate. The

following table shows the birth rates in Victoria from 1870 to 1924 :—

**BIRTH RATES IN VICTORIA PER 1,000 OF POPULATION,
1870 TO 1924.**

Year.	Birth Rate.	Year.	Birth Rate.	Year.	Birth Rate.
1870 ..	38·07	1899 ..	26·14	1912 ..	26·38
1875 ..	33·94	1900 ..	25·79	1913 ..	25·77
1880 ..	30·75	1901 ..	25·72	1914 ..	25·37
1885 ..	31·33	1902 ..	25·05	1915 ..	24·45
1890 ..	33·60	1903 ..	24·28	1916 ..	24·20
1891 ..	33·57	1904 ..	24·42	1917 ..	23·40
1892 ..	32·51	1905 ..	24·57	1918 ..	22·19
1893 ..	31·18	1906 ..	24·91	1919 ..	21·46
1894 ..	29·05	1907 ..	25·03	1920 ..	23·95
1895 ..	28·46	1908 ..	24·56	1921 ..	23·15
1896 ..	27·19	1909 ..	24·62	1922 ..	23·10
1897 ..	26·49	1910 ..	24·20	1923 ..	22·31
1898 ..	25·51	1911 ..	25·03	1924 ..	22·01

The births per 1,000 of the population in the other States, New Zealand, and England and Wales in 1924 were as follows :—New South Wales, 24·11; Queensland, 23·87; South Australia, 21·88; Western Australia, 23·09; Tasmania, 25·07; New Zealand, 21·57; and England and Wales, 18·8.

The birth rate of a community is almost wholly dependent upon the proportion of wives at the reproductive period of life and their internal age distribution. As these elements, especially the former, differ widely in certain Australian States, the crude rates of the different States are scarcely comparable. The figures for the census of 1921 showed that in every 1,000 of the respective populations of each State and the Commonwealth the married women aged 15 to 45 numbered 116·1 in Victoria, 127·5 in New South Wales, 119·3 in Queensland, 125·3 in South Australia, 118·0 in Western Australia, 117·3 in Tasmania, and 121·9 in Australia. In the case of Victoria, the deficiency in the proportion of married women at the ages mentioned was accentuated by a comparatively small proportion of them being at the younger and more fertile ages. During the years 1920–22 the crude legitimate birth rate per 1,000 of the population was lower in Victoria than in any other State. When, however, the rates for the other States were adjusted to Victorian conditions by eliminating the differences referred to, they were altered as follows :—New South Wales was reduced by 2·7 per 1,000 of the population, Queensland by 1·4, South Australia by 1·6, Tasmania by 1·1, and Australia by 1·3, while the rate for Western Australia was increased by ·4. The result was that, according to the adjusted figures, the legitimate rate for Victoria was more satisfactory than the rates for two of the other States, viz., New South Wales and South Australia.

**Births to
wives in
Australasia
and England.**

The next table shows the legitimate births per 1,000 married women under 45 (not allowing for their differing age distribution) in each State, New Zealand, and England and Wales in the four census years 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921 :—

LEGITIMATE BIRTHS PER 1,000 MARRIED WOMEN UNDER 45 YEARS OF AGE.

Country.	Legitimate Births per 1,000 Married Women aged 15 to 45.				Decrease per cent. in 20 years.
	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	
Victoria	297·0	229·0	223·0	190·5	16·8
New South Wales ..	298·9	235·6	235·4	194·2	17·6
Queensland	315·0	251·0	244·8	213·6	14·9
South Australia ..	311·1	235·0	235·9	186·9	20·5
Western Australia ..	352·8	244·0	221·8	190·9	21·8
Tasmania	315·9	254·6	244·8	216·9	14·8
New Zealand	279·1	246·1	211·7	181·0	26·9
England and Wales ..	268·8	234·2	196·2	176·3	24·7

**Birthplaces
of parents
of legitimate
children.**

The birth records of children born in wedlock show that, in Victoria, in 1924, 82 out of every 100 children were born to Australian parents, and 95 out of every 100 to one or both parents born in Australia. Of the total fathers, the percentages born in the States or countries mentioned hereafter were as follows :—79·4 in Victoria ; 87·6 in Australia ; ·8 in New Zealand ; 7·5 in England and Wales ; 1·6 in Scotland ; ·8 in Ireland ; ·3 in other British Possessions ; and 1·4 in foreign countries. The corresponding percentages for mothers were : Victoria, 81·2 ; Australia, 89·3 ; New Zealand, ·5 ; England and Wales, 7·0 ; Scotland, 1·5 ; Ireland, ·6 ; other British Possessions, ·3 ; and foreign countries, ·8.

**Standardized
birth rates
per 1,000
wives in
Victoria.**

An accurate view of the alteration in the fertility of wives is obtained by comparing the ratio of legitimate births to wives at reproductive ages, and allowing for the difference in their age distribution at each period. The following

table shows for Victoria the distribution of married women in six five-year groups in the last six census years :—

PROPORTION OF MARRIED WOMEN IN AGE GROUPS TO TOTAL BETWEEN 15 AND 45 IN THE LAST SIX CENSUS YEARS.

Census Year.	Proportion in each Age Group to Every 1,000 Married Women between 15 and 45.					
	15-20.	20-25.	25-30.	30-35.	35-40.	40-45.
1871	20·3	130·4	211·4	230·7	233·2	174·0
1881	17·3	159·5	204·6	206·0	209·7	202·9
1891	13·5	156·9	275·2	244·1	172·1	138·2
1901	8·1	99·0	198·3	249·6	249·2	195·8
1911	12·4	113·8	206·9	226·6	221·2	219·1
1921	9·2	105·3	222·5	247·9	221·1	194·0

To estimate the effect which the alteration in age distribution has on the birth rate, the proportion in each of the above groups was multiplied by the average natality rate for the group according to a standard table—the standard used for this purpose being the Swedish table of 1891. The sum of the products for each census year represented the number of births which would have occurred in that year per 1,000 married women between 15 and 45 had the fertility of these women remained unaltered, i.e., the potential births. The year 1871 was used as a basis with which to compare the five subsequent census years, and adjustments were applied to the actual births (per 1,000) occurring in those years, so as to make them conform to the age constitution in the first-mentioned year. The correction factors were obtained by taking the number of births per 1,000 married women aged 15-45 which would have occurred in 1871 had the standard natality rates prevailed, and dividing this number by the corresponding numbers of potential births for 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921. The above method was applied to find what proportion of the alteration in the ratio of births to married women under 45 was due to causes other than varying age constitution. The last mentioned factor has been taken into account in the computation of the birth rates appearing in column (5) of the subjoined table :—

STANDARDIZED LEGITIMATE BIRTH RATES.

(1) Census Year.	(2) Married Women between 15 and 45 years of age.	(3) Legitimate Births.	(4) Legitimate Births per 1,000 Married Women 15-45.	(5) Standardized Legitimate Births per 1,000 Married Women 15-45.	(6) Factor for Correction of Rate in Column 4.
1871 ..	88,561	26,805	302·67	..	..
1881 ..	84,831	25,675	302·66	303·14	1·0016
1891 ..	120,700	35,853	297·04	281·98	0·9493
1901 ..	127,858	29,279	229·00	238·75	1·0426
1911 ..	139,398	31,080	222·96	231·50	1·0383
1921 ..	177,803	33,879	190·50	195·47	1·0261

An inspection of the rates in column (5) shows that there was a fall of 7 per cent. in 1891 as compared with 1881, a further serious decline of over 15 per cent. in 1901 as compared with 1891, a decrease of 3 per cent. in 1911 as compared with 1901, and a further decline of nearly 16 per cent. in 1921 as compared with 1911, which were not due to variations in the age distribution of the married women between 15 and 45 in the community. A further examination of the standardized legitimate birth rates appearing in this column shows that the births in 1921 to every 1,000 married women of reproductive ages were 108 fewer than in 1881, 87 fewer than in 1891, 43 fewer than in 1901, and 36 fewer than in 1911.

Legitimate birth rates (per 1,000 of the total population) for widely separated periods do not give a correct indication of the relative fertilities of those periods, unless the number of married women at reproductive ages in proportion to the population and the age constitution of such women have remained unchanged. In order to allow for the disturbance which may have been introduced through variations in these elements it is necessary that adjustments be made in the crude rates. The factor to correct the result of changes in the proportion of married women between 15 and 45 is obtained by comparing the number of such women in the community at the period of observation with the number in a standard population. The method of obtaining the correcting factor for the disturbance due to the second element was explained in a previous paragraph.

The following table shows the crude legitimate birth rates in six census years, the adjustments to be applied thereto for the reasons mentioned above, the amended birth rates, and the difference between these and the crude rates. The standard used in the computation of the correction factors was the Victorian population of 1871. Standardized birth rates per 1,000 of the population in the years 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921 are as follows :—

STANDARDIZED LEGITIMATE BIRTH RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

Year.	Enu- merated Population.	Legiti- mate Births.	Legitimate Births per 1,000 of Population (crude Rates).	Wives aged 15-45 per 1,000 of Population.	Correction Factor for variations in—		Stan- dardized Birth Rate.	Difference between crude and stan- dardized Rates.
					Proportion of Wives aged 15-45.	Age Distribu- tion of Wives aged 15-45.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1871	731,528	26,805	36.64	121.1	..	1.0016	36.69	6.92
1881	862,346	25,675	29.77	98.4	1.2307	0.9493	34.39	2.95
1891	1,140,405	35,853	31.44	105.8	1.1446	1.0426	28.77	4.40
1901	1,201,341	29,279	24.37	106.4	1.1382	1.0383	27.89	4.26
1911	1,315,551	31,080	23.63	106.0	1.1425	1.0261	23.68	1.56
1921	1,531,280	33,879	22.12	116.1	1.0431			

An inspection of the crude rates in the fourth column of the above table shows that legitimate births per 1,000 of population apparently declined by 6·87 in 1881, 5·20 in 1891, 12·27 in 1901, 13·01 in 1911, and 14·52 in 1921, as compared with the first-mentioned census date. After making allowance for the disturbing elements known to exist, the apparent decline of 6·87 in 1881 is altered to an increase of ·05 per 1,000, while the decline of 1891 is reduced from 5·20 to 2·25, that of 1901 from 12·27 to 7·87, that of 1911 from 13·01 to 8·75, and that of 1921 from 14·52 to 12·96 per 1,000 as compared with 1871. Between 1901 and 1921 there was a reduction of nearly 18 per cent. in the rate due to other than normal causes.

During the last ten years the births to Chinese parents numbered 43, or 1 in every 7,626 legitimate births. There were 248 Chinese half-caste births (fathers only Chinese), or 1 in every 1,322 legitimate births registered in the same period.

The average ages of fathers and mothers of legitimate children whose births were recorded in 1924 were 33·43 and 29·76 years respectively, which were 4·42 and 4·03 years above the average ages of bridegrooms marrying brides under 45 years of age, and of such brides for the same year. The proportions of both parents in various age groups are shown in the following table for the year mentioned :—

PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS IN AGE GROUPS, 1924.

Father.			Mother.		
Age Group.		Proportion per 100 Births.	Age Group.		Proportion per 100 Births.
Under 20	...	40	Under 20	...	3·25
20 to 25	...	10·43	20 to 25	...	20·96
25 to 30	...	25·43	25 to 30	...	30·13
30 to 35	...	27·22	30 to 35	...	25·26
35 to 40	...	19·09	35 to 40	...	14·95
40 to 45	...	10·11	40 to 45	...	5·05
45 to 50	...	4·67	45 and over	...	40
50 and over	...	2·65			
Total	...	100·00	Total	...	100·00

It will be seen that, on the experience of 1924, 51·1 per cent. of the mothers were between ages 20 and 30, and 40·2 per cent. between ages 30 and 40. The proportions of fathers at these ages were 35·9 and 46·3 per cent. respectively. Of every 1,000 legitimate births, about 32 were due to mothers under 20 years, and 4 to mothers aged 45 years and upwards. The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contains on page 326 information relating to the ages of mothers of first-born children.

Birth rates in town and country. In editions of this work prior to 1923 birth rates for the various municipalities and divisions of the State were based on the births occurring therein in relation to their respective populations.

This method made no allowance for prospective mothers travelling from rural districts to towns where better lying-in facilities and attention were available, or to the metropolis, or for metropolitan residents, *enceinte*, travelling from one municipality to another. By reason of this the rates for the metropolis and urban districts were unduly inflated at the expense of the rural districts, and the recorded variations in the rates of the various municipalities were incorrect. Also, no provision was made for births which had occurred in the Women's and other public hospitals being credited to the districts in which the mothers resided. As about one-seventh of the metropolitan births occur in these institutions the rates for certain municipalities—particularly the poorer and more congested ones—were necessarily considerably understated.

In 1923; therefore, it was decided to allot all births registered in Victoria to the place of usual residence of the mother. Upon this being done for the year mentioned it was found that the total for the metropolis, i.e., the births registered therein, had decreased by approximately 1,200. In 1924 the decrease was approximately 1,250. These numbers give a fair indication of the extent to which the rates in districts outside the metropolitan area suffered under the discarded system of compilation.

The following table, computed on the above-mentioned basis, shows the number of births per 1,000 of the population in the metropolitan, other urban, and rural districts for the years 1923 and 1924 :—

**BIRTH RATES IN METROPOLITAN, OTHER URBAN, AND
RURAL DISTRICTS, 1923 AND 1924.**

Division.	Births per 1,000 of Population.	
	1923.	1924.
Metropolitan District ..	21·10	20·90
Country Towns (other urban) ..	22·08	21·25
Rest of State	24·03	23·81
Total State	22·31	22·01

Birth rates in metropolitan municipalities. The appended statement shows, for the years 1923 and 1924, the populations of, and the number of births, and the births per 1,000 of the population in the metropolitan municipalities :—

BIRTH RATES IN METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES, 1923 AND 1924.

Municipality.	1923.			1924.		
	Mean Population for Year.	Number of Births.	Births per 1,000 of Population.	Mean Population for Year.	Number of Births.	Births per 1,000 of Population.
Melbourne City	101,930	2,011	19·73	101,960	1,843	18·08
Brighton City	23,500	482	20·51	24,940	479	19·21
Brunswick City	46,580	1,130	24·26	47,810	1,206	25·22
Camberwell City	27,520	632	22·97	31,130	746	23·96
Caulfield City	49,180	1,050	21·35	54,090	1,073	19·84
Coburg City	22,570	553	24·50	26,000	680	25·56
Collingwood City	34,270	687	20·05	34,100	726	21·29
Essendon City	37,480	833	22·23	38,730	876	22·62
Fitzroy City	34,820	805	23·12	34,590	719	20·79
Footscray City	38,240	1,022	26·73	41,000	900	23·41
Hawthorn City	30,300	562	18·55	31,200	559	17·92
Kew City	18,660	378	20·26	19,910	387	19·44
Malvern City	39,320	625	15·89	41,430	691	16·68
Northcote City	32,950	823	24·98	34,810	930	26·72
Oakleigh Town	6,840	235	34·36	7,240	226	31·22
Port Melbourne City ..	13,140	305	23·21	13,150	291	22·13
Prahran City	50,930	954	18·73	51,140	878	17·17
Preston Town	11,660	380	32·59	14,270	501	35·11
Richmond City	43,500	898	20·64	43,630	946	21·68
Sandringham City	14,000	221	15·79	15,500	268	17·29
South Melbourne City ..	46,990	951	20·24	47,080	951	20·20
St. Kilda City	40,200	648	16·12	40,800	677	16·59
Williamstown City	20,270	499	24·62	21,510	490	22·78
Remainder of Metropolis ..	39,040	927	23·74	41,360	1,067	25·80
Hospitals and Shipping ..	10,930	..	..	11,300	..	..
Whole Metropolis	834,820	17,611	21·10	869,280	18,170	20·90

Birth rates
in country
towns.

Similar information relating to the twelve principal country towns is given in the table which follows :—

BIRTH RATES IN THE TWELVE PRINCIPAL COUNTRY TOWNS, 1923 AND 1924.

Town.	1923.			1924.		
	Population at end of year.	Number of Births.	Births per 1,000 of Population.	Population at end of year.	Number of Births.	Births per 1,000 of Population.
Ballarat and Suburbs ..	39,960	785	19·64	40,600	790	19·46
Bendigo and Suburbs ..	33,490	653	19·50	33,640	634	18·85
Geelong and Suburbs ..	37,100	829	22·35	37,740	790	20·93
Carrum	6,000	133	22·17	6,200	125	20·16
Castlemaine and Suburbs ..	7,170	147	20·50	7,120	138	19·38
Hamilton	5,110	139	27·20	5,120	144	28·13
Maryborough	*	*	*	4,830	127	26·29
Mildura	5,550	200	36·04	5,700	211	37·02
Mordialloc	6,900	120	17·39	7,180	152	21·17
Stawell	4,600	130	28·26	4,650	107	23·01
Warrnambool	7,950	196	24·65	8,000	180	22·50
Wonthaggi	5,600	188	33·57	6,000	146	24·33

* Not available.

**Twin and
triplet births.**

The numbers of cases of twin and triplet births in Victoria in the last five years were as follows :—

CASES OF TWINS AND TRIPLETS.

Year.	Cases of Twins.	Cases of Triplets.
1920	410	5
1921	408	3
1922	394	8
1923	412	4
1924	378	3

On the average of the five years 1 mother in every 89 gave birth to twins, and 1 in every 7,742 was delivered of triplets. The proportions for the decennium ended 1917 were 1 in every 94 and 1 in every 9,538 respectively.

**Children
legitimized.**

In December, 1912, an Act was passed which provides that children born out of wedlock may be legitimized at any time after the marriage of the parents, on the application of the father, provided there was no lawful impediment to the marriage of the parents at the time of the birth. An amending Act passed in 1916 allowed legitimation to be effected on the application of the mother if the father were absent on war service or had died not more than two years previously. Up to the end of 1924 advantage was taken of these Acts, and of an Act (now repealed) passed in 1903, to legitimate 2,346 children, of whom 14 were registered in 1903, 19 in 1904, 34 in 1905, 43 in 1906, 58 in 1907, 60 in 1908, 51 in 1909, 71 in 1910, 126 in 1911, 106 in 1912, 157 in 1913, 149 in 1914, 141 in 1915, 140 in 1916, 136 in 1917, 162 in 1918, 159 in 1919, 165 in 1920, 168 in 1921, 133 in 1922, 133 in 1923, and 121 in 1924.

Legitimation Acts are in force in all the States and New Zealand, but there are marked differences in the numbers of legitimations resulting therefrom. In proportion to every 100 children born out of wedlock in 1924, the numbers of legitimations in the various States and New Zealand during that year were as follows :—Victoria, 7·3 ; New South Wales, 15·3 ; Queensland, 16·9 ; South Australia, 17·2 ; Western Australia, 16·8 ; Tasmania, 12·0 ; and New Zealand, 20·6.

**Illegitimate
births in
Victoria.**

The number of illegitimate births in Victoria during the year 1924 was 1,660, which represents a proportion of 4·59 to every 100 births registered, as against 4·37 in the previous year, 4·41 in 1922, 4·82 in 1921, 5·24 in 1920, 5·77 in 1919, 5·84 in 1918, 5·51 in 1917, 5·15 in 1916, 5·75 in 1915, and 5·77 in the period 1910-14.

Illegitimate births to unmarried women in Victoria. The percentage of illegitimate to total births in Victoria varied from 5·36 in 1891 to 5·94 in 1911, and 4·82 in 1921. The proportion of infants born out of wedlock to the unmarried and widowed women between 15 and 45 years of age in Victoria is shown in the subjoined table for the census years 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921, when the conjugal condition of the population was known :—

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS PER 1,000 SINGLE WOMEN.

Year.	Single Women aged 15 to 45.	Illegitimate Births.	Illegitimate Births per 1,000 Single Women.
1891	142,443	2,064	14·5
1901	167,760	1,729	10·3
1911	187,488	1,964	10·5
1921	189,737	1,714	9·0

The number of infants born out of wedlock per 1,000 unmarried and widowed women in Victoria was 9·0 in 1921. This was considerably lower than the latest available figures for most European countries. The proportions ranged from 23 in Germany, 26 in Sweden, 24 in Denmark, 14 in Italy, and 16 in France, to 12 in Belgium, 13 in Scotland, 7 in England and Wales, 5 in Holland, and 4 in Ireland.

Illegitimacy in town and country. A larger proportion of illegitimacy prevails in Melbourne and suburbs than in the other urban and the rural districts of Victoria, the proportion in the country districts being the smallest of all. During the year 1924, in the metropolitan area 1 birth in every 18, in other urban districts 1 in 21, and in the rural districts only 1 in 32 were registered as illegitimate. The corresponding rates for 1923 were 1 in 18, 1 in 23, and 1 in 34 respectively. One striking result attending the introduction of the system of allotting all births to the mother's place of usual residence has been the altered ratios of illegitimacy in town and country—both the urban areas outside the metropolis and the country districts having higher ratios than on the basis previously adopted. For 1922 the proportions of illegitimacy to total births, based on the births which actually occurred in the various municipalities, were 1 in 15, 1 in 38, and 1 in 58 respectively.

DEATHS.

The following table shows the number of deaths—male and female—also the quarters in which they were registered and the proportion per 1,000 of the population since 1899 :—

DEATHS IN EACH QUARTER, 1900 TO 1924.

Period.	Annual Deaths.	Sex.		Quarter of Registration.				Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population.
		Males.	Females.	March.	June.	September.	December.	
1900-04..	15,457	8,686	6,771	3,921	3,750	3,992	3,794	12·84
1905-09..	14,932	8,296	6,636	3,805	3,539	3,917	3,671	11·93
1910 ..	14,736	8,132	6,604	3,820	3,693	3,661	3,562	11·34
1911 ..	15,217	8,356	6,861	3,519	3,774	4,132	3,792	11·52
1912 ..	16,595	9,077	7,518	4,000	4,199	4,498	3,898	12·22
1913 ..	15,475	8,496	6,979	4,075	3,678	4,137	3,585	11·09
1914 ..	16,503	9,017	7,486	3,953	4,030	4,257	4,263	11·56
1915 ..	15,823	8,860	6,963	3,524	3,788	4,380	4,131	11·05
1916 ..	16,489	8,901	7,588	4,111	4,140	4,509	3,729	11·66
1917 ..	14,555	7,952	6,603	3,430	3,585	3,831	3,709	10·31
1918 ..	15,177	8,079	7,098	3,537	3,563	4,144	3,933	10·66
1919 ..	19,370	10,508	8,862	4,303	5,784	5,469	3,814	13·15
1920 ..	16,832	9,060	7,772	3,998	4,351	4,433	4,050	11·13
1921 ..	16,165	8,662	7,503	4,017	4,031	4,412	3,705	10·51
1922 ..	15,156	8,187	6,969	3,610	3,867	4,084	3,595	9·65
1923 ..	17,219	9,135	8,084	3,766	4,593	4,760	4,100	10·71
1924 ..	16,503	8,863	7,640	3,840	3,987	4,828	3,848	10·05
Average 1920-24	16,375	8,781	7,594	3,846	4,166	4,503	3,860	10·40

The number of deaths in 1924 was 16,503, which was 445 below the average of the preceding five years. In one of those years—1919—the death rate was abnormally high owing to the existence of an epidemic of influenza.

The deaths in Australia in 1924 numbered 54,980, as against 56,236 in the preceding year, 51,312 in 1922, 54,076 in 1921, 56,289 in 1920, 65,930 in 1919, 50,249 in 1918, 48,029 in 1917, 54,197 in 1916, 52,782 in 1915, and 51,720 in 1914.

Of the total deaths in the year under review 16,503 occurred in Victoria, 20,835 in New South Wales, 7,327 in Queensland, 4,870 in South Australia, 3,263 in Western Australia, 2,123 in Tasmania, 44 in the Northern Territory, and 15 in the Federal Capital Territory. The death rates per 1,000 of the population, for each of the Australian States and New Zealand, are shown in the following statement for

Death rates
in Australian
States and
New Zealand.

the periods 1902-06 and 1907-11, and for each of the last thirteen years :—

DEATH RATES IN THE AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND.

Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1902-06	12·55	10·84	10·92	10·67	12·17	11·04	11·44	9·81
1907-11	11·64	10·20	10·12	9·89	10·47	10·83	10·64	9·77
1912 ..	12·22	10·86	10·96	10·28	11·06	10·73	11·23	8·87
1913 ..	11·09	10·89	10·39	10·82	9·34	10·87	10·78	9·47
1914 ..	11·56	10·11	9·97	10·71	9·41	9·67	10·51	9·31
1915 ..	11·05	10·48	11·00	10·68	9·28	10·11	10·66	9·06
1916 ..	11·66	10·63	11·09	11·73	9·80	10·38	11·04	9·64
1917 ..	10·31	9·56	9·73	10·10	8·97	8·89	9·80	9·58
1918 ..	10·66	9·84	10·39	9·97	9·11	8·84	10·09	14·84
1919 ..	13·15	13·40	12·42	12·01	11·10	10·37	12·82	9·51
1920 ..	11·13	10·32	10·82	10·76	10·14	9·35	10·62	10·27
1921 ..	10·51	9·51	9·34	10·02	10·44	10·30	9·91	8·73
1922 ..	9·65	8·92	9·14	9·10	9·33	9·29	9·21	8·77
1923 ..	10·71	9·61	9·83	9·59	8·41	9·92	9·89	9·03
1924 ..	10·05	9·35	8·87	9·19	9·03	9·89	9·47	8·29

The rate in Victoria, taking the average of the last five years, was higher than in any other State, but this result was chiefly due to its containing a larger proportion of elderly persons, among whom the mortality rate is very high. The comparatively high rate in Australia in 1919 and the abnormal rate in New Zealand in the previous year were due to a heavy mortality from influenza.

Comparisons of the crude death rates of a country for different periods, or of different countries for the same period, are frequently misleading, as they do not allow for variations in the age distributions of the population. In European countries, the proportion of elderly people, among whom the death rate is heavy, is higher than in the Commonwealth or any of the Australian States, and it is greater in South Australia, and lower in Western Australia, than in any of the other States. The proportions living in various age groups at the census of 1921 in each division of the Commonwealth and New Zealand, and those in 1890 in Sweden—a

Age
distribution
and crude
death rates.

country which fairly represents European conditions—are shown in the following table :—

PROPORTIONS LIVING IN FIVE AGE GROUPS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES, NEW ZEALAND, AND SWEDEN.

Country.	Proportion per 10,000 of Population living in the Age Group—					Total.
	Under 1 Year.	1 to 20.	20 to 40.	40 to 60.	60 and over.	
Victoria	227	3,603	3,198	2,133	839	10,000
New South Wales ..	253	3,812	3,276	1,927	732	10,000
Queensland	268	3,926	3,270	1,846	690	10,000
South Australia ..	236	3,748	3,247	1,922	847	10,000
Western Australia ..	232	3,887	2,949	2,310	622	10,000
Tasmania	263	4,101	2,988	1,840	808	10,000
Australia	246	3,779	3,219	1,993	763	10,000
New Zealand	224	3,795	3,146	2,084	751	10,000
Sweden	255	3,980	2,696	1,923	1,146	10,000

The figures show that the characteristic features of Australian populations, as compared with those of European countries, are a large preponderance of persons in the age group 20-40, and a relatively small number aged 60 and over. Among the Australian States, South Australia and Western Australia have, as mentioned previously, the highest and lowest proportions respectively of persons aged 60 years and upwards—a point which should be kept in view when comparing their crude death rates.

The differences shown in the preceding table in the age constitutions of the populations of the six States have been taken into account in computing their respective indexes of mortality. The results for each are based upon an age distribution corresponding to that of Sweden in 1890, which has been adopted by statisticians as a standard for this purpose. Mortality indexes for each State for the undermentioned years, as compiled by the Commonwealth Statistician, are as follows :—

INDEX OF MORTALITY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN STATES.

Year.	Index of Mortality.						
	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Commonwealth.
1920	13·72	13·32	14·36	13·49	15·63	12·28	13·65
1921	12·85	12·27	12·30	12·47	15·60	13·16	12·66
1922	11·20	10·91	11·38	10·62	11·80	10·88	11·10
1923	12·44	11·79	12·35	11·24	10·74	11·80	11·95
1924	11·70	11·50	11·15	10·84	11·78	11·78	11·47

In each of the last five years the crude death rate was higher in Victoria than in any other Australian State, but the figures in the above table show that, in each of the years under review, with the exception of 1923, two States had a higher index of mortality than Victoria.

A reliable estimate of the improvement in the health of the community is obtained by comparing the death rates for groups of ages at different periods. Such rates for Victoria are given in the subjoined table for the decennial periods 1891-1900, 1902-11, and 1912-21 :—

DEATH RATES IN CERTAIN AGE GROUPS IN VICTORIA.

Age Group.				Deaths per 1,000 at each Age.		
				1891-1900.	1902-11.	1912-21.
<i>Males.</i>						
Under 5	...	...	...	39·29	26·73	23·85
5 to 10	...	...	...	3·36	2·16	2·42
10 to 15	...	...	...	2·20	1·87	1·75
15 to 20	...	...	...	3·28	2·72	2·37
20 to 25	...	...	...	4·79	3·51	3·57
25 to 35	...	...	...	6·60	4·75	4·71
35 to 45	...	...	...	9·03	7·81	7·14
45 to 55	...	...	...	15·32	13·48	13·10
55 to 65	...	...	...	32·90	25·38	25·05
65 to 75	...	...	...	62·99	59·04	53·18
75 and upwards	...	...	...	145·05	157·26	157·97
All ages	...	...	...	15·47	13·30	12·57
<i>Females.</i>						
Under 5	...	...	...	34·09	22·35	19·26
5 to 10	...	...	...	3·12	2·03	2·24
10 to 15	...	...	...	2·06	1·78	1·56
15 to 20	...	...	...	3·43	2·80	2·27
20 to 25	...	...	...	4·81	3·59	3·56
25 to 35	...	...	...	6·89	5·01	4·58
35 to 45	...	...	...	8·68	7·16	6·01
45 to 55	...	...	...	12·12	9·96	9·44
55 to 65	...	...	...	23·64	18·80	17·46
65 to 75	...	...	...	45·87	46·71	42·01
75 and upwards	...	...	...	124·33	131·77	136·61
All ages	...	...	...	12·36	10·66	10·35

The figures show that at all ages, excepting between 5 and 10, and 20 and 25, and 75 and over for males, and between 5 and 10, and 75 and over for females, much lower death rates were experienced during the decennium 1912-21 than in the preceding one. Compared

with 1902-11, the mortality rate for the period 1912-21 for the two sexes combined was lower by 10 per cent. for the age group 0-10, by 9 per cent. at ages 10-15, by 16 per cent. at 15-20, by 5 per cent. at 25-35, by 12 per cent. at 35-45, and by 4 per cent. at 45-55 and 55-65. The rates, up to age 65 and probably to age 75, are comparable, and the marked decrease at successive periods shows that there had been a general improvement in hygienic conditions.

In years prior to 1923 it was the custom, when computing local death rates, to treat the deaths in two main divisions—those occurring in public institutions and those occurring elsewhere. The latter were credited to the district in which they were registered. Of the institutional deaths those occurring in hospitals were allotted to the usual residence; the remainder, together with any deaths of persons unknown or whose residence was not stated, were allotted to the various divisions of the State according to the population of each.

For purposes of greater accuracy, and following the lead of England and other countries, the allotment to usual residence has, for 1923, and 1924, been extended to cover all deaths, only those institutional deaths where the usual residence is unknown being allotted to the various divisions of the State as before mentioned.

The following table, computed on the above-mentioned basis, shows the number of deaths per 1,000 of the population in the metropolitan, other urban, and rural districts for the years 1923 and 1924 :—

**DEATH RATES IN METROPOLITAN, OTHER URBAN,
AND RURAL DISTRICTS, 1923 AND 1924.**

Division.	Deaths per 1,000 of Population.	
	1923.	1924.
Metropolitan District ..	11·28	10·49
Country Towns (other urban) ..	12·46	11·27
Rest of State ..	9·48	9·09
Total State ..	10·71	10·05

The deaths in Victoria of residents of metropolitan municipalities, and their proportions to the populations of these municipalities are shown in the following table for the years 1923 and 1924 :—

DEATH RATES IN METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES, 1923 AND 1924.

Municipality.	1923.			1924.		
	Mean Population for Year.	Number of Deaths.	Deaths per 1,000 of Population.	Mean Population for Year.	Number of Deaths.	Deaths per 1,000 of Population.
Melbourne City	101,930	1,418	13·91	101,960	1,310	12·85
Brighton City	23,500	249	10·60	24,940	250	10·02
Brunswick City	46,580	534	11·46	47,810	502	10·50
Camberwell City	27,520	264	9·59	31,130	332	10·66
Caulfield City	49,180	402	8·17	54,090	477	8·82
Coburg City	22,570	227	10·06	26,600	229	8·61
Collingwood City	34,270	457	13·34	34,100	395	11·58
Essendon City	37,480	401	10·70	38,730	417	10·77
Fitzroy City	34,820	539	15·48	34,590	414	11·97
Footscray City	38,240	385	10·07	41,000	411	10·02
Hawthorn City	30,300	359	11·85	31,200	308	9·87
Kew City	18,660	159	8·52	19,910	203	10·20
Malvern City	39,320	358	9·10	41,430	350	8·45
Northcote City	32,950	309	9·38	34,810	333	9·57
Oakleigh Town	6,840	87	12·72	7,240	72	9·94
Port Melbourne City ..	13,140	158	12·02	13,150	142	10·80
Prahran City	50,930	620	12·17	51,140	617	12·06
Preston Town	11,660	137	11·75	14,270	139	9·74
Richmond City	43,500	561	12·90	43,630	471	10·80
Sandringham City	14,000	111	7·93	15,500	122	7·87
South Melbourne City ..	46,990	585	12·45	47,080	542	11·51
St. Kilda City	40,200	446	11·09	40,800	414	10·15
Williamstown City	20,270	240	11·84	21,510	236	10·97
Remainder of Metropolis ..	39,040	408	10·45	41,360	432	10·44
Hospitals and Shipping ..	10,930	..	..	11,300	..	..
Whole Metropolis	834,820	9,414	11·28	869,280	9,118	10·49
Remainder of State	772,953	7,805	10·10	772,572	7,385	9·56

The outstanding features of the above figures are the high death rates prevailing in some of the old centres of population, of which Melbourne City, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Port Melbourne, Prahran, Richmond, and South Melbourne, are examples, and the low rates in comparatively recently settled areas, such as Camberwell, Caulfield, Coburg, Kew, Malvern, Northcote, and Sandringham. The deaths for 1924 were 11·95 per 1,000 in the former as against 9·16 in the latter group. Slight differences in the age distribution of the populations of these two divisions may exist, but they can account for only a small portion of the great disparity in their mortality rates. It would appear that the standard of health, as indicated by death rates, is much better in the outlying and less densely populated suburbs than in the central and more congested areas of the metropolis.

Metropolitan
and country
death rates
compared.

The ages of the people, as disclosed at the census of 1921, enable a comparison to be made between the death rates prevailing at that time in Greater Melbourne and in the remainder of the State. On the average of the years 1920-22, the deaths of metropolitan residents were in the ratio of 11·50 per 1,000 of population, as against a ratio of 9·42 for residents of the rest of the State. The apparent difference in favour of the country is 2·08, but a computation shows that, when allowances are made for the unequal age and sex distribution of the people in these areas, the actual difference is greater—the deaths per 1,000 of population being fewer by 2·70 among country than among metropolitan residents.

Decrease in
Metropolitan
death rate.

In Greater Melbourne, in the decade 1915-24, there were 11·94 deaths per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 15·76 in the decennium 1892-1901. The reduction in the rate represents a saving of approximately 29,100 lives in the last ten years. Many factors have contributed to this result, but it is probable that the introduction of the sewerage system, the notification of contagious diseases, the improvement in the conditions of labour, the increasing supervision of the manufacture and sale of articles of consumption, the greater proportion of females in the community, and the advance of medical science, have been the main causes of the decline. That the sanitary conditions of the metropolis have greatly improved is evidenced by a comparison of the death rates from tubercular and certain other diseases for the period 1915-24 with those for the decennium 1892-1901. The following are the rates :—

Cause of Death.	Deaths per 1,000 of Population.		
	1892-1901.	1915-24.	Decrease in 1915-24.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1·654	0·765	0·889
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	0·446	0·169	0·277
Typhoid Fever ...	0·293	0·023	0·270
Scarlet Fever ...	0·033	0·022	0·011
Measles ...	0·215	0·035	0·180
Diphtheria ...	0·196	0·134	0·062
Total ...	2·837	1·148	1·689

The figures show that the mortality from the six diseases mentioned declined by 60 per cent in 1915-24—the decline representing a rate of 1·69 per 1,000 of the population. It is impossible to state which municipalities have contributed most to this result, as their mortality rates from the diseases referred to are not available for the earlier period. A comparison, however, of the general death rates in each, for the periods under review, shows that all divisions of the metropolis have, in varying degrees, shared in the improvement. The mortality from all causes showed a net decline of 3·82 per 1,000 of the population during the period mentioned.

The appended statement shows, for the years 1923 and 1924, the populations of, and the number of deaths, and the deaths per 1,000 of the population in the twelve principal country towns :—

DEATH RATES IN THE TWELVE PRINCIPAL COUNTRY TOWNS, 1923 AND 1924.

Town.	1923.			1924.		
	Population at end of year.	Number of Deaths.	Deaths per 1,000 of Population.	Population at end of year.	Number of Deaths.	Deaths per 1,000 of Population.
Ballarat and Suburbs ..	39,960	552	13·81	40,600	451	11·11
Bendigo and Suburbs ..	33,490	474	14·15	33,640	470	13·97
Geelong and Suburbs ..	37,100	394	10·62	37,740	394	10·44
Carrum ..	6,000	71	11·83	6,200	52	8·39
Castlemaine and Suburbs	7,170	69	9·62	7,120	78	10·96
Hamilton	5,110	73	14·29	5,120	66	12·89
Maryborough	*	*	*	4,830	61	12·63
Mildura	5,550	70	12·61	5,700	69	12·11
Mordialloc	6,900	68	9·86	7,180	56	7·80
Stawell	4,600	61	13·26	4,650	52	11·18
Warrnambool	7,950	96	12·08	8,000	70	8·75
Wonthaggi	5,600	58	10·36	6,000	61	10·17

* Not available.

An examination of the particulars of residence of persons who have died in the public hospitals of Victoria during recent years reveals definite and interesting information regarding the assistance rendered by these institutions to people in different divisions of the State. For the metropolitan municipalities, the twelve principal country towns, and the

Residents of different areas dying in hospitals.

remainder of the State, the percentages of the total deaths of residents thereof which occurred in public hospitals during the year 1924 were as follows :—

PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN
AREAS OCCURRING IN HOSPITALS, 1924.

Area.	Percentage of Deaths of Residents occurring in Hospitals, 1924.	Area.	Percentage of Deaths of Residents occurring in Hospitals, 1924.
Melbourne City	37·7	St. Kilda City	20·0
Brighton City	14·0	Williamstown City ..	18·2
Brunswick City	31·1	Remainder of Metropolis	21·1
Camberwell City	16·0	Ballarat	16·6
Caulfield City	18·4	Bendigo	20·2
Coburg City	25·8	Geelong	20·6
Collingwood City	37·0	Carrum	36·5
Essendon City	21·6	Castlemaine	25·6
Fitzroy City	41·1	Hamilton	27·3
Footscray City	31·1	Maryborough	29·5
Hawthorn City	18·5	Mildura	53·6
Kew City	13·3	Mordialloc	23·2
Malvern City	13·4	Stawell	19·2
Northcote City	30·3	Warrnambool	27·1
Oakleigh Town	26·4	Wonthaggi	41·0
Port Melbourne City ..	30·3		
Prahran City	25·8	Summary—	
Preston Town	34·5	Greater Melbourne ..	27·4
Richmond City	35·2	Twelve Country Towns	22·9
Sandringham City	18·0	Remainder of State ..	20·1
South Melbourne City ..	31·5	Whole State	24·4

Of the total deaths in the State 24·4 per cent. occurred in public hospitals in 1924, as against 24·9 per cent. in the previous year and 20·9 per cent. in 1910-15. The disparities in the proportions for different areas are very significant. Of the total cases of fatal illness which occurred amongst residents of the metropolitan districts mentioned in 1924, the percentage treated in public hospitals varied from 41·1 for Fitzroy, 37·7 for Melbourne City, 37·0 for Collingwood, and 35·2 for Richmond, to 16·0 for Camberwell, 14·0 for Brighton, 13·4 for Malvern, and 13·3 for Kew. For the whole metropolitan area the percentage was 27·4 as compared with 20·8 for the rest of the State. Taking the proportions for fatal cases as an index of all cases dealt with, it would appear that, relatively to population, the assistance rendered by public hospitals to the residents of Greater Melbourne exceeds by about 32 per cent. that given to people residing elsewhere.

Residents of Greater Melbourne who died in public hospitals in Victoria during 1924 numbered 2,496.

Deaths in public institutions in Greater Melbourne.

In 1924 the deaths in public institutions were 30·3 per cent. of the total in the State. The number of deaths in each public institution in the metropolis in 1924 is given in the subjoined table :—

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN GREATER MELBOURNE, 1924.

Institution.	No. of Deaths.	Institution.	No. of Deaths.
Hospitals—		Other Public Institutions—	
Melbourne	930	Victorian Homes for Aged and Infirm	107
Alfred	440	Benevolent Asylum	182
St. Vincent's	157	Convent of the Little Sisters of the Poor	50
Homœopathic	76	Old Colonists' Homes	9
Austin	199	Foundling Hospital, Broadmeadows	15
Children's	462	Macleod Military Sanatorium	7
Women's	181	Children's Welfare Dépôt	5
Infectious Diseases	140	Kew Lunatic Asylum	124
Queen Victoria	49	Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum... ..	46
Eye and Ear	10	Mont Park Asylum	28
Williamstown	20	Receiving House — Mental Hospital	35
Caulfield Repatriation Hospital	66	The Haven	16
Police ... ..	...	Foundling Hospital, East Melbourne	2
Heatherton Sanatorium	79	Carlton Refuge	4
		Macleod Military Mental Asylum	7
		Anzac Hostel, Brighton ... ..	...
Total Hospitals	2,809	Total Hospitals and other Institutions	3,446

Infantile mortality. The mortality of children under one year in proportion to births has been considerably less in recent than in earlier periods, but the necessity for reducing the risks to infant health and life, particularly amongst illegitimate children, is still apparent. The deaths of infants in 1924 numbered 2,216, and, as there were 36,139 births, it follows that of every 10,000 infants born approximately 613 died within twelve months. The rates for Melbourne and suburbs, the extra metropolitan area, and the whole

State, for different periods since 1880, are shown in the following table :—

INFANTILE DEATH RATES, 1881 to 1924.

Period.	Deaths under One Year per 100 Births in—		
	Melbourne and Suburbs.	Remainder of the State.	Whole State.
1881-1890	17·14	9·50	12·68
1891-1900	13·36	9·60	11·11
1901-05	11·26	8·45	9·58
1906-10	9·47	6·95	8·00
1911	7·82	6·12	6·87
1912	9·02	6·05	7·45
1913	7·63	6·51	7·05
1914	8·45	7·24	7·83
1915	7·99	5·77	6·88
1916	8·56	6·29	7·46
1917	6·55	4·72	5·67
1918	7·09	5·16	6·17
1919	7·87	5·65	6·80
1920	8·41	6·21	7·38
1921	7·40	7·11	7·27
1922	5·86	4·77	5·33
1923	7·34	5·84	6·57
1924	6·77	5·49	6·13

On the average of the last five years the infantile death rate for the metropolis was 7·12 per 100 births, which was 31 per cent. below that for the decennium ended 1910, and 47 per cent. below the rate for the decennium 1891-1900.

The deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 100 births in Greater Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, and the rest of the State in 1923 and 1924 were as follows :—

INFANTILE DEATH RATES IN DIFFERENT DIVISIONS OF THE STATE, 1923 AND 1924.

Division.	Deaths under One Year per 100 Births.	
	1923.	1924.
Melbourne and Suburbs	7·34	6·77
Ballarat and Suburbs	8·54	6·58
Bendigo and Suburbs	10·57	10·25
Geelong and Suburbs	10·01	7·34
Rest of the State	5·29	5·15
Victoria	6·57	6·13

The prejudicial effect of city surroundings on infant life is evidenced by the mortality being heavier in urban than in country districts. During 1924 the deaths of children under 1 year of age to every 1,000 births were 68 in Melbourne, 103 in Bendigo, 66 in Ballarat, and 73 in Geelong, as against 51 in the rest of the State.

In computing birth and death rates the system was introduced in 1923 of allotting all births and deaths to the place of usual residence of the parties. In the cases of births and infantile deaths the mother's residence is considered to be that of the child. The following table shows for each metropolitan municipality the number of births, the deaths of infants under 1 year, and the number of such deaths per 100 births in the years 1923 and 1924:—

INFANTILE DEATH RATES IN METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES, 1923 AND 1924.

Municipality.	1923.			1924.		
	Births.	Deaths under One Year.		Births.	Deaths under One Year.	
		Number.	Rate per 100 Births.		Number.	Rate per 100 Births.
Melbourne City ..	2,011	237	11·79	1,843	168	9·12
Brighton City ..	482	22	4·56	479	21	4·38
Brunswick City ..	1,130	85	7·52	1,206	79	6·55
Camberwell City ..	632	25	3·96	746	37	4·96
Caulfield City ..	1,050	56	5·33	1,073	63	5·87
Coburg City ..	553	42	7·59	680	38	5·59
Collingwood City ..	687	64	9·32	726	68	9·37
Essendon City ..	833	59	7·08	876	52	5·94
Fitzroy City ..	805	84	10·43	719	59	8·20
Footscray City ..	1,022	68	6·65	960	74	7·71
Hawthorn City ..	562	32	5·69	559	30	5·37
Kew City ..	378	13	3·44	387	18	4·65
Malvern City ..	625	31	4·96	691	27	3·91
Northcote City ..	823	49	5·95	930	54	5·81
Oakleigh Town ..	235	10	4·26	226	8	3·54
Port Melbourne City ..	305	25	8·20	291	26	8·93
Prahran City ..	954	68	7·13	878	66	7·52
Preston Town ..	380	24	6·32	501	31	6·19
Richmond City ..	898	73	8·13	946	66	6·98
Sandringham City ..	221	16	7·24	268	16	5·97
South Melbourne City ..	951	95	9·99	951	88	9·25
St. Kilda City ..	648	31	4·78	677	34	5·02
Williamstown City ..	499	32	6·41	490	38	7·76
Remainder of Metropolis ..	927	51	5·50	1,067	69	6·47
Whole Metropolis ..	17,611	1,292	7·34	18,170	1,230	6·77

It is noticeable that the centres having the lowest infantile death rates are residential areas which are not so thickly populated as nearly all of the other metropolitan districts.

**Infantile
Mortality at
different
ages.**

An investigation into the experience in regard to infantile mortality over a period of years discloses a constant decrease in the infantile death rate, shared proportionately by each sex, since the earlier periods. Further analysis shows that the decrease was shared by all age periods except the period "under one week." Comparing the quinquennial periods 1910-14 and 1920-24 the mortality rate of infants whose age was over one week shows a decrease of 20·5 per cent., while that of infants under one week has increased by 10·2 per cent.

In 1924 the total rate for males was 12 per cent. higher than that for females; for the age period "under one week" the rates were approximately equal, but over that age the male death rate was greater at each age period—the excess amounting in all to 21 per cent.

The tables which follow show the percentage of deaths of infants at various ages under one year for certain periods since 1899, and male and female death rates at each age period for the year 1924:—

**INFANTILE MORTALITY AT DIFFERENT AGES,
1900 TO 1924.**

Period.	Deaths Under One Year per 1,000 Births.						Males.	Females.
	Under 1 Week.	1 Week to 1 Month.	1 to 3 Months.	3 to 6 Months.	6 to 12 Months.	Total under 1 Year.		
1900-04 ..	34·4		16·9	21·0	25·9	98·2	105·7	90·4
1905-09 ..	33·0		13·8	15·1	19·3	81·2	89·3	72·6
1910-14 ..	21·5	11·1	12·1	12·4	16·7	73·8	81·8	65·3
1915-19 ..	23·3	10·1	10·5	9·4	12·8	66·1	73·0	58·7
1920 ..	24·4	10·6	11·7	11·9	15·2	73·8	82·6	64·5
1921 ..	24·4	10·4	11·8	12·1	14·0	72·7	80·9	64·0
1922 ..	21·6	7·7	7·2	7·3	9·5	53·3	60·3	45·9
1923 ..	24·5	9·3	9·1	9·4	13·4	65·7	70·6	60·5
1924 ..	23·5	8·5	9·4	9·5	10·4	61·3	64·8	57·7
1920-24 ..	23·7	9·3	9·8	10·0	12·5	65·3	71·8	58·5

**INFANTILE MORTALITY AT DIFFERENT AGES,
MALES AND FEMALES, 1924.**

Age.	Males.			Females.		
	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Percentage at each Age.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Percentage at each Age.
Under 1 week ..	434	23·5	36·2	417	23·6	41·0
1 week to 1 month ..	171	9·2	14·3	137	7·8	13·5
1 to 3 months ..	199	10·7	16·6	141	8·0	13·9
3 to 6 months ..	184	10·0	15·3	159	9·0	15·6
6 to 12 months ..	211	11·4	17·6	163	9·3	16·0
Total ..	1,199	64·8	100·0	1,017	57·7	100·0

Probable mortality of infants. The experience of the years 1920-24 shows that, of every 20,000 newly-born boys and girls in equal numbers, 718 boys and 585 girls died within twelve months, and 9,282 of the former and 9,415 of the latter, or 18,697 of mixed sexes, were living at the end of the year. The corresponding numbers surviving the first year in earlier periods were 17,765 in the ten years 1891-1900 and 17,468 in 1881-90. It is thus seen that, of every 20,000 births comprising equal numbers of each sex, there were 932 more survivors in 1920-24 than in 1891-1900, and 1,229 more than in 1881-90.

Infantile death rates from certain causes. An investigation of infantile mortalities would be incomplete if the diseases which have proved fatal in different periods of years were not ascertained, and their incidence in each period compared. Information of this nature reveals the causes of high death rates, and, when a fairly early period is selected for comparison with recent years, it shows in what direction improvements have taken place. The chief preventable and non-preventable causes of death, grouped under certain headings, are shown in the subjoined table for the periods 1891-93, 1901-10, and 1911-20, and for the year 1924 :—

INFANTILE DEATH RATES FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1891-93, 1901-10, 1911-20, AND 1924.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births in—					
	1891-93.	1901-10.	1911-20.	1924.		
				Total.	Males.	Females.
Diarrhœal Diseases, all forms	29·66	24·62	16·13	9·77	10·76	8·73
Wasting Diseases (Marasmus, Atrophy, &c.) ...	22·24	12·74	13·09	5·84	6·65	4·99
Prematurity ...	13·13	14·99	15·17	16·96	17·67	16·21
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ...	11·37	8·13	6·86	6·70	6·86	6·52
Convulsions ...	6·83	3·10	1·63	1·00	·97	1·02
Congenital Defects and Malformations ...	3·45	4·86	4·38	4·29	4·43	4·14
Violence ...	3·16	2·47	1·07	·61	·65	·57
Whooping Cough ...	2·60	2·52	1·82	·26	3·90	4·65
Other causes ...	24·49	14·46	9·40	11·90	12·92	10·83
Total, all causes ...	116·93	87·89	69·55	61·33	64·81	57·66

Of every 1,000 infants born 16 died from diarrhœal and wasting diseases in 1924, as against 29 in 1911-20, 37 in 1901-10, and 52 in 1891-93—a decrease of 70 per cent. since the last mentioned period. In 1924, acute bronchitis, broncho-pneumonia and pneumonia were responsible for 6·70 deaths per 1,000 births, as

compared with 11·37 in 1891-93—a decline of 41 per cent. between the two periods. Certain causes, which may be regarded as of a non-preventable nature, such as prematurity, congenital defects, and malformations, were responsible for 31 per cent. of the total infantile mortality during the last ten years. Of the deaths from preventable causes during that period, approximately 1 in every 3 was due to diarrhoeal diseases, the mortality being highest during the months December to April. Of every 1,000 children born during the years referred to 13 died from diarrhoeal complaints within a year, a proportion which shows the necessity for further preventive measures in relation to these diseases.

An examination of the male and female mortalities from the above diseases discloses the fact that the male rate was consistently higher than the female rate, except in the cases of whooping cough and convulsions.

The tables which follow show the number of deaths and the death rate of infants under one month for Melbourne and suburbs and the whole State for the years 1920 to 1924, also the principal causes of death.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE MONTH, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	Melbourne and Suburbs.		Victoria.	
	No. of Deaths.	Deaths per 100 Births.	No. of Deaths.	Deaths per 100 Births.
1920 ..	733	3·80	1,270	3·51
1921 ..	678	3·67	1,237	3·48
1922 ..	586	3·10	1,065	2·93
1923 ..	636	3·61	1,211	3·38
1924 ..	632	3·48	1,159	3·21

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE MONTH FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1920 TO 1924.

Cause of Death.	Melbourne and Suburbs.					Victoria.				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Diarrhoeal Diseases (all forms)	7	11	11	11	3	18	26	22	26	14
Wasting Diseases (Marasmus, Atrophy, etc.)	120	78	81	87	80	228	182	188	166	137
Prematurity	361	322	277	326	322	583	548	485	594	568
Bronchitis, Broncho - pneumonia and Pneumonia ..	18	23	13	33	29	33	37	19	55	47
Convulsions	11	16	31	6	10	24	37	54	27	27
Congenital Defects and Malformations	65	73	45	50	58	128	123	72	98	110
Violence	16	12	9	9	2	21	18	12	16	4
Syphilis	8	2	2	1	2	8	4	2	3	6
Other Causes	127	141	117	113	126	227	262	211	226	246

On the average of the last ten years, 159 in every 1,000 illegitimate infants died within a year, as against 61 in every 1,000 legitimate children. It is thus seen that the proportion of illegitimate children dying before the age of 1 year is 2·6 times that of legitimate children. In the year 1924 the mortality rate of legitimate infants was 5·76 per 100 births. The children born out of wedlock during the same year numbered 1,660, and the deaths of illegitimate infants were 229, the death rate being thus 13·80 per 100 births. With the view of ascertaining the chief reasons for the marked disproportion in the mortality rates of the two classes the following table has been constructed, showing the deaths from certain causes, per 1,000 legitimate and illegitimate births, for the periods 1904-08 and 1914-18 and the year 1924 :—

DEATH RATES OF LEGITIMATE AND ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS FROM CERTAIN CAUSES.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births.					
	Legitimate.			Illegitimate.		
	1904-08.	1914-18.	1924.	1904-08.	1914-18.	1924.
Diarrhoeal Diseases ...	19·8	14·2	9·0	72·6	48·6	24·7
Prematurity, Congenital Defects, Marasmus, &c. ...	30·3	27·2	25·5	52·1	64·9	59·6
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ...	6·9	6·1	6·3	18·6	12·5	15·1
Other causes ...	18·3	15·3	16·8	58·7	36·6	38·6
Total, all causes ...	75·3	62·8	57·6	202·0	162·6	138·0

The rates for 1924 show that of every 1,000 children born out of wedlock 24·7 died from diarrhoeal diseases within a year, as compared with 9·0 deaths per 1,000 legitimate infants from the same cause. Owing to a larger proportion of the former children being deprived of breast food a higher mortality from these diseases might be expected among them than among legitimate infants, but the striking differences in the death rates from this cause and from the chief respiratory diseases indicate considerable neglect in the rearing of illegitimate infants.

Infantile
deaths in
each month
from certain
causes.

The influence of temperature on infantile mortality from the chief digestive and respiratory diseases is specially noticeable, whilst on deaths from other causes, particularly those of a developmental character, very little influence is apparent. The infantile deaths in Melbourne and suburbs from the two former classes of complaint in each month during the last five years are shown in the appended table :—

INFANTILE DEATHS IN EACH MONTH FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1920-24.

Month.	Infantile Deaths in Greater Melbourne in 1920-24 from—					
	Diarrhœal Diseases.			Respiratory Diseases.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
January	187	144	331	22	20	42
February	122	93	215	24	13	37
March	98	80	178	18	18	36
April	86	63	149	19	16	35
May	64	61	125	30	14	44
June	32	14	46	38	32	70
July	10	12	22	56	50	106
August	8	13	21	56	52	108
September	10	7	17	35	34	69
October	18	12	30	26	17	43
November	34	18	52	27	21	48
December	81	66	147	24	26	50
Total, 1920-24 ..	750	583	1,333	375	313	688

The experience of the last five years shows that of the total infantile deaths in the metropolis from diarrhœal diseases 86 per cent. occur during the six months December to May, and of the deaths from respiratory diseases 51 per cent. occur in the four months June to September.

Infantile
mortality in
Australasia.

The deaths of infants under 1 year of age in the Commonwealth numbered 7,701 in 1924, as compared with 8,186 in the previous year, 7,251 in 1922, 8,952 in 1921, 9,431 in 1920, 8,464 in 1919, 7,364 in 1918, 7,302 in 1917, and 9,282 in 1916. The next table gives the proportion of such deaths to the total births in each

Australian State and New Zealand for each of the last thirteen years, and for earlier periods back to 1891 :—

INFANTILE MORTALITY IN AUSTRALASIA.

Period.	Deaths under 1 year per 100 Births.						
	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
1891-1900 ..	11·11	11·22	10·34	10·54	14·48	9·58	8·38
1902-06 ..	9·38	9·27	8·93	8·21	12·21	9·02	7·29
1907-11 ..	7·51	7·66	6·98	6·56	8·29	7·97	6·85
1912 ..	7·45	7·13	7·16	6·16	8·21	6·66	5·12
1913 ..	7·05	7·83	6·33	7·01	7·00	7·01	5·92
1914 ..	7·83	6·97	6·39	7·60	6·82	7·16	5·14
1915 ..	6·88	6·81	6·40	6·73	6·66	7·22	5·01
1916 ..	7·46	6·78	7·04	7·36	6·63	7·50	5·07
1917 ..	5·67	5·75	5·42	5·37	5·71	5·23	4·82
1918 ..	6·17	5·90	5·69	5·12	5·73	6·08	4·84
1919 ..	6·80	7·23	7·24	6·40	6·13	6·46	4·53
1920 ..	7·38	6·94	6·32	6·73	6·60	6·55	5·06
1921 ..	7·27	6·26	5·42	6·55	7·83	7·80	4·78
1922 ..	5·33	5·36	5·04	4·75	5·56	5·57	4·19
1923 ..	6·57	6·07	5·39	6·03	5·60	5·74	4·38
1924 ..	6·13	5·89	5·11	5·13	4·99	5·50	4·02

The infantile deaths per 100 births in the Australasian capitals in 1924 were as follows :—Melbourne 6·77, Sydney 5·72, Brisbane 6·05, Adelaide 5·66, Perth 6·15, Hobart 6·57, and Wellington 4·28.

In 1924 the deaths of male children under 5 years of age numbered 1,601, and the deaths of female children under that age, 1,321—the former being in the proportion of 18·06 per cent., and the latter of 17·29 per cent., to the total number

Deaths of
children
under 5.

of deaths of the respective sexes at all ages. The subjoined table gives the annual number of such deaths in the State at each year of age, and the proportion of the deaths under five years of age to the deaths at all ages in decennial periods from 1871 to 1920, and in the years 1921 to 1924 :—

MORTALITY OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS.

Period.	Year of Age at Death.					Total under 5 Years.	
	0.	1.	2.	3.	4.	Number.	Proportion Per 100 Deaths at all Ages.
<i>Males.</i>							
1871-80 ..	1,783	508	206	148	119	2,764	39·41
1881-90 ..	2,158	464	161	114	92	2,989	34·28
1891-1900..	2,050	432	143	93	76	2,794	30·05
1901-10 ..	1,504	249	83	59	41	1,936	22·93
1911-20 ..	1,363	233	92	64	48	1,800	20·38
1921 ..	1,479	213	86	50	45	1,873	21·62
1922 ..	1,130	170	65	47	34	1,446	17·66
1923 ..	1,311	213	86	43	43	1,696	18·57
1924 ..	1,199	201	94	49	58	1,601	18·06
<i>Females.</i>							
1871-80 ..	1,482	482	198	139	106	2,407	46·06
1881-90 ..	1,805	423	151	105	84	2,568	39·61
1891-1900..	1,702	385	129	82	68	2,366	33·61
1901-10 ..	1,192	217	81	51	40	1,581	23·58
1911-20 ..	1,029	190	74	59	49	1,401	19·00
1921 ..	1,107	183	73	36	57	1,456	19·41
1922 ..	805	123	61	34	27	1,050	15·07
1923 ..	1,047	159	71	33	32	1,342	16·60
1924 ..	1,017	175	66	44	19	1,321	17·29

The number of persons of advanced ages was greater in the later than in the earlier years mentioned in the above table, and, as the mortality is very heavy at the older ages, this accounts to some extent for the gradual decrease in the proportion of deaths under the age of 5 years. After making allowance for this there is still a marked reduction in the mortality under 5 years of age in recent years as compared with that in periods prior to 1901.

The ages of males and females who died in 1924 and in the two preceding years are shown in the following table:—

AGES AT DEATH IN VICTORIA, 1922 to 1924.

Ages.	1922.			1923.			1924.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 ..	1,130	805	1,935	1,311	1,047	2,358	1,199	1,017	2,216
1 to 2	170	123	293	213	159	372	201	175	376
2 „ 3	65	61	126	86	71	157	94	66	160
3 „ 4	47	34	81	43	33	76	49	44	93
4 „ 5	34	27	61	43	32	75	58	19	77
5 „ 10	146	93	239	158	103	261	136	99	235
10 „ 15	113	69	182	108	108	216	103	73	176
15 „ 20	130	117	247	168	151	319	161	148	309
20 „ 25	176	180	356	184	195	379	214	206	420
25 „ 30	224	211	435	215	249	464	204	230	434
30 „ 35	216	257	473	245	279	524	213	263	476
35 „ 40	252	262	514	289	295	584	281	260	541
40 „ 45	301	273	574	364	279	643	311	245	556
45 „ 50	374	291	665	389	343	737	368	309	677
50 „ 55	492	359	851	548	417	965	544	417	961
55 „ 60	644	469	1,113	712	500	1,212	673	487	1,160
60 „ 65	805	523	1,328	894	638	1,532	933	613	1,546
65 „ 70	744	545	1,289	843	677	1,520	842	637	1,479
70 „ 75	590	524	1,114	662	590	1,252	695	554	1,249
75 „ 80	575	573	1,148	623	682	1,305	609	606	1,215
80 „ 85	459	566	1,025	502	571	1,073	500	575	1,075
85 „ 90	345	404	749	357	434	791	301	375	676
90 „ 95	122	151	273	146	168	314	137	165	302
95 ..	10	19	29	12	21	33	13	14	27
96 ..	9	10	19	5	16	21	9	16	25
97 ..	5	8	13	5	9	14	5	7	12
98 ..	..	9	9	4	6	10	6	10	16
99 ..	1	2	3	1	2	3	2	4	6
100 ..	3	1	4	2	2	4	1	1	2
101 ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	2
102 ..	4	2	6	2	1	3	..	4	4
103 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
104 ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
105 ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
109 ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
Total ..	8,187	6,969	15,156	9,135	8,084	17,219	8,863	7,640	16,503

Of the 48,878 persons who died in Victoria during the last three years 6,547 were aged 80 years and upwards, and 29—fifteen males and fourteen females—had attained or passed the age of 100 years.

The highest age at death recorded in the period 1922-24 was 109 years, which was attained by one man. To every 100 female deaths there were 116 male deaths in 1924, as against 113 in the previous year, 117 in 1922, 115 in 1921, and 117 in 1920.

The death rates from the chief diseases are shown in the appended table for the period 1908-12 and for the last five years :—

DEATHS PER MILLION FROM CERTAIN CAUSES.

Cause of Death.	Deaths per Million of the Population.					
	1908-1912.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Typhoid Fever	98	37	46	20	34	20
Scarlet Fever	16	24	12	8	11	13
Measles	33	146	4	1	48	4
Diphtheria and Croup	77	125	63	26	12	160
Whooping Cough	122	183	179	88	58	69
Influenza	109	52	88	46	248	104
Hydatids	22	13	14	13	10	10
Cancer	833	908	954	997	1,013	999
Phthisis	855	658	667	565	620	585
Other Tubercular Diseases	182	145	137	120	123	127
Syphilis	51	46	36	22	26	24
Diabetes	107	126	136	110	98	133
Anæmia, Chlorosis, Leucæmia	81	90	104	85	118	97
Simple Meningitis	133	54	64	68	67	46
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis .. .. .	..	10	11	8	8	20
Infantile Paralysis .. .. .	..	3	3	2	1	1
Locomotor Ataxia and other diseases of Spinal Cord	71	45	52	38	49	55
Congestion and Hæmorrhage of the Brain	449	472	472	433	471	467
Epilepsy	35	31	34	27	39	25
Convulsions	76	45	47	59	45	31
Heart Disease (including Endocarditis, Pericarditis, and Angina Pectoris)	1,441	1,287	1,267	1,245	1,423	1,364
Acute and Chronic Bronchitis	348	273	222	209	233	199
Pneumonia and Broncho-pneumonia	834	801	676	746	978	741

DEATHS PER MILLION FROM CERTAIN CAUSES—*continued*.

Cause of Death.	Deaths per Million of the Population.					
	1908-1912.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Pleurisy	45	23	35	29	32	30
Congestion of Lungs and Pulmonary Apoplexy	63	84	59	59	45	59
Asthma and Pulmonary Emphysema	60	41	22	32	42	26
Enteritis, Gastro-enteritis, and Diarrhoeal Diseases	833	639	657	358	480	354
Hernia, Intestinal Obstruction	113	118	100	107	95	90
Diseases of the Stomach (Cancer excepted)	99	106	79	81	81	71
Cirrhosis and other diseases of the Liver (Cancer excepted)	158	96	99	81	90	87
Biliary Calculi	27	31	25	20	14	25
Appendicitis	81	63	57	67	70	75
Simple Peritonitis (non-puerperal)	35	28	24	29	34	25
Acute and Chronic Nephritis, Uræmia, Bright's Disease	576	540	516	514	501	482
Diseases of the Bladder and Prostate	94	82	57	55	68	69
Calculi of the Urinary System	7	6	8	4	6	9
Old Age	1,030	1,019	873	873	867	770
Suicide	102	95	95	81	78	72
Accidental Violence	531	451	452	393	414	485
Homicide	19	12	14	15	13	11

The above and other causes of death are fully dealt with in subsequent paragraphs.

The following table shows for each month of the year the proportion of deaths per 1,000 due to nine well-known diseases and to all causes. The figures are based on the experience of the quinquennial period 1920-24, and, in order to make the results comparable, adjustments have been made to correct the inequality of the number of days in each month. The average annual mortality from each disease is shown at the foot of the table :—

The Seasonal Prevalence of Diseases.

SEASONAL PREVALENCE OF DISEASES IN VICTORIA, 1920-24.

Month.	Typhoid Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Influenza.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia and Broncho- pneumonia.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis.	Bright's Disease.	Total from all Causes.
January	135	76	59	18	79	44	60	212	69	84
February	198	79	63	20	68	36	47	176	78	79
March	131	61	110	34	74	51	54	137	65	75
April	111	29	125	38	75	72	72	116	77	82
May	127	47	143	51	87	82	88	77	80	82
June	49	54	132	199	84	125	124	37	82	90
July	44	94	98	192	88	132	130	24	107	96
August	37	128	82	155	96	150	120	22	103	94
September	16	120	62	119	92	93	92	21	87	84
October	20	133	54	72	94	84	86	27	81	82
November	33	95	23	66	82	79	70	46	85	76
December	99	84	49	36	81	52	57	105	86	76
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Average Annual Number of Deaths 1920-24 ..	49	122	179	171	972	356	1,241	777	802	16,375

An inspection of the above table shows that the mortality from all causes was greatest in the winter months, the highest point being reached in July. It was lowest in the warmer months of the year, except January.

Typhoid fever, diarrhoea, and enteritis are essentially hot weather diseases, while pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia, bronchitis, and influenza are much more prevalent in the colder months than in the warmer ones. The greatest number of deaths from diphtheria occur in the autumn, while whooping cough reaches its zenith in the months of early spring. Phthisis and Bright's disease do not exhibit variations in mortality according to season to as great an extent as the other diseases mentioned, but reach their maximum mortality during the cold weather.

Vaccinations. The proportion of successful vaccinations to every 100 births for the period 1876-99, and for each year since, is given in the following table. A great reduction in the percentage of vaccinations to births is shown for the years 1920 to 1924. This is due to a large number of persons having taken advantage of the "Conscience Clause" of the Health Act of 1919, which came into operation on 24th March, 1920.

SUCCESSFUL VACCINATIONS PER 100 BIRTHS.

Period.	Vaccinations per 100 births.	Period.	Vaccinations per 100 births.
1876-99 ...	72	1912 ...	60
1900 ...	67	1913 ...	69
1901 ...	62	1914 ...	65
1902 ...	53	1915 ...	69
1903 ...	71	1916 ...	61
1904 ...	69	1917 ...	60
1905 ...	67	1918 ...	48
1906 ...	67	1919 ...	44
1907 ...	67	1920 ...	12
1908 ...	67	1921 ...	11
1909 ...	68	1922 ...	8
1910 ...	69	1923 ...	6
1911 ...	62	1924 ...	5

In 1924 the vaccinations of children were equal to 5 per cent. of the births, as compared with 6 per cent. in the preceding year, 8

per cent. in 1922, 11 per cent. in 1921, 12 per cent. in 1920, 44 per cent. in 1919, 64 per cent. in the period 1900-18 and 72 per cent. in the period 1876-99.

**Small-pox—
Deaths from.**

Persons suffering from small-pox have arrived at Victorian ports on many occasions, but, as they were at once quarantined, the disease never spread among the people of the State. During the years 1853 to 1924 only 31 deaths occurred from this cause, and of that number only 8 took place in the last forty years of the period.

**Typhoid
fever.**

The reported cases of typhoid fever for the whole State declined from 288 per 100,000 of population in 1895-99 to 53 per 100,000 in 1914-18, and 19 per 100,000 in 1924, or by 93 per cent. in the intervening years. The death rate from the disease also decreased by 93 per cent. during the same period. The deaths per 100 cases in 1924 were 10·9 as compared with 10·7 in 1914-18. The reported cases of, and deaths from typhoid fever and their proportions to the population, also the percentage of cases that ended fatally, are given in the next table for periods back to 1890 :—

TYPHOID FEVER IN VICTORIA, 1890 TO 1924.

Period.	Annual Cases Reported.		Annual Deaths.		Deaths per 100 reported Cases.
	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	
1890-94	2,932	253·9	381	33·0	13·0
1895-99	3,397	288·4	355	30·1	10·4
1900-04	2,152	178·1	213	17·6	9·9
1905-09	1,569	125·4	135	10·8	8·6
1910-14	1,374	101·0	107	7·8	7·8
1915-19	563	39·3	60	4·2	10·6
1920	433	28·8	55	3·7	12·7
1921	532	34·6	71	4·6	13·3
1922	301	19·1	32	2·0	10·6
1923	468	29·1	55	3·4	11·8
1924	304	18·5	33	2·0	10·9

The death rate from typhoid fever for Victoria is considerably lower than that for the Commonwealth.

**Typhoid
fever in the
Metropolis.**

The cases of, and deaths from typhoid fever in proportion to population, in Greater Melbourne, are given in the subjoined table for different periods during the last thirty-five years:—

TYPHOID FEVER IN THE METROPOLIS, 1890 TO 1924.

Period.	Annual Cases Reported.		Annual Deaths.	
	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.
1890-94	1,645	349.3	205	43.5
1895-99	1,510	327.6	156	33.8
1900-04	701	140.0	74	14.8
1905-09	466	86.7	49	9.1
1910-14	385	61.4	36	5.8
1915-19	128	18.0	19	2.7
1920	128	17.0	13	1.7
1921	119	15.1	29	3.7
1922	80	9.9	11	1.4
1923	103	12.3	13	1.6
1924	96	11.0	16	1.8

The cases of, and deaths from typhoid fever in proportion to population declined by 97 and 95 per cent. respectively in Greater Melbourne between 1890-99 and 1924. The introduction and extension of the sewerage system coincide closely with, and in a large measure account for this great improvement.

**Prevalence
of typhoid
fever in
different
areas.**

The number of cases of typhoid fever during each of the last five years in five divisions of the State, and their proportions to the respective populations for the period 1910-19 and the years 1923 and 1924, are given in the following table:—

PREVALENCE OF TYPHOID FEVER.

Area.	Reported Cases of Typhoid Fever.					Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.		
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1910-19.	1923.	1924.
Greater Melbourne ..	128	119	80	103	96	4.1	1.2	1.1
Ballarat and Suburbs	12	52	22	20	8	13.4	5.0	2.0
Bendigo and Suburbs	9	24	38	16	9	18.2	4.8	2.7
Geelong and Suburbs	10	35	7	3	1	9.0	0.8	0.3
Rest of the State ..	274	302	154	326	190	8.9	4.9	2.9

The cases in proportion to population were fewer by 73 per cent. in Greater Melbourne, 85 per cent. in Ballarat, 85 per cent. in Bendigo, 97 per cent. in Geelong, and 67 per cent. in the rest of the State in 1924 than in the period 1910-19.

**Death rates
from typhoid
fever at
different ages.**

The mortality from typhoid fever is higher at early adult and middle ages than at other periods of life, and higher among males than females. This is shown in the next table, which gives the death rates in age groups for each sex in the years 1900-02, 1910-12, and 1920-22, being the years adjoining the censuses of 1901, 1911, and 1921 :—

**DEATH RATES FROM TYPHOID FEVER, 1900-02, 1910-12,
AND 1920-22.**

Age Group.			Deaths per 10,000 of each Sex.					
			Males.			Females.		
			1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.
0-15	..	..	0·97	0·38	0·12	1·46	0·44	0·28
15-20	..	..	2·65	1·76	0·40	2·23	1·22	0·46
20-25	..	..	4·39	1·82	0·97	1·84	1·32	0·54
25-35	..	..	3·28	1·71	0·41	2·04	0·82	0·38
35-45	..	..	2·25	1·26	0·45	1·21	0·68	0·36
45-55	..	..	1·95	0·82	0·54	0·93	0·39	0·20
55-65	..	..	0·66	0·20	0·42	0·34	0·50	0·16
65 and over	..	..	..	0·10	0·10	0·23	0·19	0·09
All ages	..	..	1·95	1·00	0·37	1·49	0·69	0·32

The experience of the three census periods mentioned shows that the rate for males exceeds that for females by 33 per cent., and that the heaviest mortality occurs between the ages 15 and 35. It is notable that at each census period there were proportionately fewer deaths of boys than of girls under the age of 15.

Scarlet fever. In 1924 the deaths from scarlet fever numbered 22, which corresponded to a rate of 13 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 11 in 1923, 8 in 1922, 12 in 1921, 24 in 1920 and 1919, and 34 in 1890-92. During 1924 there were 2,356 cases reported, as against 1,730 in the previous year, 1,972

in 1922, 2,816 in 1921, and 2,259 in 1920. For the five years mentioned the deaths were equal to nearly 1 per cent. of the cases. According to the experience of the last ten years the chance of dying from the disease is 64 per cent. greater for females than for males

Measles. Although the mortality from measles has varied very considerably from period to period, there has been no very severe epidemic outbreak since 1898, when 671 deaths resulted from the disease. In 1924 there were 7 deaths attributed to this cause, representing a rate of 4 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 48 in the previous year, '6 in 1922, 4 in 1921, 146 in 1920, 17 in 1919, 5 in 1918, 11 in 1917, 13 in 1916, and 22 in 1915.

On the average of the five years 1919 to 1923, 53 per cent. of those who died from the disease were under 2 years of age and 75 per cent. were under 5 years. The incidence of mortality at various ages for each sex for the period 1919-23 was as follows :—

Sex.	Annual Deaths from Measles per 10,000 of each Sex aged—									
	0 to 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 and over.	All Ages.
Males	4·17	7·64	2·83	1·69	0·87	0·75	0·06	0·06	0·02	0·46
Females	2·34	7·87	2·35	1·50	0·52	0·57	0·23	0·03	0·06	0·40

Whooping cough. Whooping cough was responsible for 263 deaths in 1924, which equalled a rate of 160 per million of the population at all ages, as compared with rates of 12 in the previous year, 26 in 1922, 63 in 1921, 125 in 1920, 24 in 1919, 47 in 1918, 51 in 1917, 84 in 1916, 68 in 1915, 69 in 1914, and 71 in 1913. The rate for 1924 is the highest recorded since 1906. The infantile death rate is more affected than the general rate by this ailment, as it is practically confined to children. In the year under review 154 of the deaths were of infants under 1 year, and all, except 13, of the deaths were of children less than 5 years of age. On the average of the last ten years the mortality rate from the disease was 22 per cent. higher among girls than boys.

Diphtheria. The prevalence of diphtheria throughout the State during the last fourteen years was an unsatisfactory feature of the statistics of sickness relating to that period. For the year 1924 the number of cases was 3,987, as against 3,467 in 1923, 5,323 in 1922, 9,458 in 1921, and a yearly average of 5,161 in 1911-20, 1,410 in 1905-09, 1,680 in 1900-04, and 1,584 in 1895-99. On the other hand, a very great reduction took place from period to period in the proportion of cases which ended fatally. The case mortality rate was 2·9 per cent. in 1924, as compared with 4·6 per cent. in 1912-16, 6·3 per cent. in 1905-09, 9·5 per cent. in 1900-04, and 13·9 per cent. in 1895-99.

The appended table shows for the whole State and the metropolis the reported cases of and deaths from diphtheria, and their proportions to the population, also the ratios of deaths to cases for different periods since 1894 :—

DIPHTHERIA IN VICTORIA AND GREATER MELBOURNE, 1895 TO 1924.

Period.	Annual Cases Reported.		Annual Deaths.		Deaths per 100 Cases Reported.
	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	

VICTORIA.

1895-99	1,584	134·6	221	18·8	13·9
1900-04	1,680	139·0	159	13·2	9·5
1905-09	1,410	112·6	89	7·1	6·3
1910-14	4,612	339·1	212	15·6	4·6
1915-19	4,901	342·5	209	14·6	4·3
1920	6,458	429·2	276	18·3	4·3
1921	9,458	615·2	275	17·9	2·9
1922	5,323	338·8	138	8·8	2·6
1923	3,467	215·6	94	5·8	2·7
1924	3,987	242·8	114	6·9	2·9

GREATER MELBOURNE.

1895-99	748	162·1	113	24·6	15·1
1900-04	686	136·9	58	11·6	8·5
1905-09	758	140·8	46	8·5	6·1
1910-14	2,343	374·3	114	18·3	4·9
1915-19	2,864	402·6	127	17·9	4·4
1920	2,698	357·5	117	15·5	4·3
1921	3,724	473·2	104	13·2	2·8
1922	2,213	274·6	53	6·6	2·4
1923	1,900	227·6	50	6·0	2·6
1924	2,239	257·6	68	7·8	3·0

The cases of diphtheria which occurred in five divisions of the State in each of the last five years and their proportions to the respective populations, for the period 1916-19 and the years 1923 and 1924, are given in the subjoined table:—

CASES OF DIPHTHERIA IN DIFFERENT AREAS.

Area.	Reported Cases of Diphtheria.					Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.		
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1910-19.	1923.	1924.
Greater Melbourne ..	2,698	3,724	2,213	1,900	2,239	39·3	22·8	25·8
Ballarat and Suburbs	330	307	111	90	54	24·3	22·5	13·3
Bendigo and Suburbs	428	521	215	91	108	84·6	27·2	32·1
Geelong and Suburbs	369	405	200	98	127	43·4	26·4	33·7
Rest of the State ..	2,633	4,501	2,584	1,288	1,459	25·7	19·4	22·1

In 1924, the cases in each division of the State, except Ballarat and suburbs, were more numerous than in the preceding year.

Of the 488 males and 506 females who died from diphtheria during the five years 1919-23, 850, or 86 per cent., were under 10 years of age. The incidence of mortality for each sex at different ages, for the period mentioned, was as follows:—

DEATH RATES FROM DIPHTHERIA AT DIFFERENT AGES, 1919-23.

Sex.	Annual Deaths from Diphtheria per 10,000 of each Sex aged—									
	0 to 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 and over.	All Ages.
Males..	5·08	9·09	9·28	7·67	6·23	3·67	0·83	0·33	0·07	1·29
Females	3·86	6·65	6·09	6·56	7·10	4·91	0·96	0·62	0·13	1·30

The deaths attributed to hydatids in 1924 numbered 17, being equivalent to a rate of 10 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 10 in the preceding year, 13 in 1922, 14 in 1921, 13 in 1920, 18 in 1919, 21 in 1918, 14 in 1917, 21 in 1916, 18 in 1915, 22 in 1908-12, and 51 in 1890-92. According to the experience of the last ten years the death rate from this disease is 41 per cent. higher among males than females. Hospital returns for the period 1915-24 show that 660 cases of hydatids were treated therein and that 93, or, approximately, 1 in every 7, ended fatally.

**Anæmia,
chlorosis,
leucæmia.**

Anæmia, chlorosis, and leucæmia were responsible for 159 deaths in 1924, which corresponded to a rate of 97 per million of the population, as against rates of 118 in the previous year, 85 in 1922, 104 in 1921, 90 in 1920, 93 in 1919, 90 in 1918, 97 in 1917, 94 in 1916, 83 in 1915, 100 in 1914, 76 in 1913, and 81 in 1908-12. Of the 35 persons who died from leucæmia in 1924, 20 were males.

Diabetes.

During 1924 diabetes was responsible for 79 male and 140 female deaths, representing a rate of 133 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 98 in the preceding year, 110 in 1922, 136 in 1921, 126 in 1920, 134 in 1919, 146 in 1918, 120 in 1917, 128 in 1916, 114 in 1915, 119 in 1914, 91 in 1913, and 107 in 1908-12. The deaths from diabetes per 10,000 of each sex in nine age groups, for the periods 1900-02, 1910-12, and 1920-22, are shown in the subjoined table :—

**DEATHS FROM DIABETES PER 10,000 OF
EACH SEX.**

Age Group.			Deaths per 10,000 of each Sex.					
			Males.			Females.		
			1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.
0-10	...	...	·09	·10	·13	·05	·15	·22
10-20	...	...	·24	·20	·31	·26	·36	·39
20-30	...	...	·17	·64	·48	·36	·30	·53
30-40	...	...	·32	·58	·45	·51	·53	·54
40-50	...	...	·49	1·11	·95	·42	·78	1·11
50-60	...	...	1·38	1·80	2·14	1·42	3·18	2·79
60-70	...	...	2·67	5·63	5·19	3·19	8·47	8·02
70-80	...	...	4·36	7·34	7·37	5·01	11·54	12·51
80 and over	...	..	4·11	7·43	8·42	3·54	6·83	6·02
All Ages	...	...	·56	1·00	1·03	·60	1·26	1·45

In 1920-22 the female exceeded the male rate for each age group between 40 and 80, the excess for the twenty years of life 60 to 80 amounting to 61 per cent. For all ages combined the rate for females was 41 per cent. higher than that for males.

Influenza. The deaths from influenza in 1924 numbered 170, which corresponded to a rate of 104 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 248 in the previous year, 46 in 1922, 88 in 1921, 52 in 1920, 2,407 in 1919, 148 in 1918, 71 in 1913-17, 109 in 1908-12, and 381 in 1890-92.

In 1924, 51 per cent. of the deaths recorded were associated with specified pneumonic complications.

With the exception of the 1919 epidemic, when 72 per cent. of the deaths were of persons between 20 and 50 years of age, influenza has always proved more fatal to elderly people than to those at middle or young ages.

The next table gives the death rate per 10,000 of each sex in age groups for the last five census periods:—

DEATHS FROM INFLUENZA IN VICTORIA PER 10,000 OF EACH SEX.

Age Group.					1880-82.	1890-92.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.
<i>Males.</i>									
0-15	...	...	...	...	·34	2·50	1·10	·40	·23
15-20	...	...	...	...	·07	·64	·34	·24	·30
20-25	...	...	...	...	...	1·20	·59	·21	·38
25-35	...	...	...	...	·07	1·50	·79	·17	·27
35-45	...	...	...	...	...	3·04	1·31	·59	·56
45-55	...	...	...	...	·24	5·12	3·20	·73	·92
55-65	...	...	...	...	·24	12·65	5·25	2·38	1·44
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	2·36	27·13	17·02	12·27	4·18
All ages	...	...	...	...	·25	3·94	2·30	1·10	·65
<i>Females.</i>									
0-15	...	...	...	...	·34	1·86	1·15	·42	·25
15-20	...	...	...	...	...	·92	·83	·34	·26
20-25	...	...	...	...	...	1·28	·69	·35	·35
25-35	...	...	...	...	·07	2·35	·89	·22	·45
35-45	...	...	...	...	·08	4·11	1·86	·30	·46
45-55	...	...	...	...	...	5·39	2·02	·68	·68
55-65	...	...	...	...	·62	11·46	5·53	1·61	·91
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	3·18	35·22	16·02	12·80	3·86
All ages	...	...	...	...	·24	3·72	2·13	1·10	·60

Influenza epidemic, 1919.

Information in regard to the epidemic of 1919 is given in the *Year-Book* for 1918-19, pages 214-216; and in the 1919-20 issue, pages 180-182.

Respiratory diseases.

In 1924 the deaths from respiratory diseases numbered 1,877, which represented a rate of 1,143 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 1,441 in the previous year, 1,195 in 1922, 1,141 in 1921, 1,329 in 1920, 1,430 in 1919, 1,160 in 1918, 1,094 in 1917, 1,336 in 1916, and 1,368 in 1915. Of the deaths from complaints of this nature in the year under review, 67 were referred to acute bronchitis, 109 to chronic bronchitis, 150 to bronchitis unspecified, 485 to broncho-pneumonia, 731 to pneumonia, 50 to

pleurisy, and 35 to asthma. These six diseases accounted for 87 per cent. of the total respiratory mortality. The seasonal incidence of these maladies is evidenced by the deaths in June, July, August, and September, which represented 46 per cent. of the total for the whole year. Respiratory diseases are much more fatal at the extremes of life than at middle ages, and among males than females. This is shown in the appended table, which gives for each sex the death rates relating to groups of ages at five census periods :—

DEATHS FROM RESPIRATORY DISEASES PER 10,000 OF EACH SEX.

Age Group.				1880-82.	1890-92.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.
<i>Males.</i>								
0-15	...	...	...	29.02	28.52	16.53	12.94	10.25
15-20	...	...	...	3.30	2.92	2.70	1.66	1.76
20-25	...	...	...	5.34	4.88	4.85	2.35	2.73
25-35	...	...	...	8.31	6.85	5.94	3.86	3.71
35-45	...	...	...	15.80	13.55	9.49	10.50	8.01
45-55	...	...	...	26.59	25.18	18.04	18.25	15.69
55-65	...	...	...	51.65	56.51	38.37	32.68	30.42
65 and upwards	...	...	...	136.54	141.07	112.38	138.87	112.17
All ages	...	...	...	24.48	24.30	18.66	17.17	14.42
<i>Females.</i>								
0-15	...	...	...	24.18	24.13	13.85	10.50	8.54
15-20	...	...	...	2.02	3.52	2.34	1.56	2.32
20-25	...	...	...	4.23	3.05	3.34	2.48	1.72
25-35	...	...	...	5.72	5.65	3.75	3.55	3.25
35-45	...	...	...	12.53	11.55	7.68	5.85	4.90
45-55	...	...	...	13.63	17.01	11.80	8.28	6.71
55-65	...	...	...	29.15	32.10	27.42	16.64	13.50
65 and upwards	...	...	...	116.12	112.38	86.78	99.81	86.51
All ages	...	...	...	17.08	17.62	13.28	11.81	10.15

The mortality from respiratory diseases at all ages combined was less in the period 1920-22 than in any of the four previous census periods. At each census date the male exceeded the female rate, the average excess for the five census periods being 42 per cent.

Cerebro-spinal meningitis was responsible for 33 deaths in 1924, 13 in 1923, 12 in 1922, 17 in 1921, 15 in 1920, 14 in 1919, 37 in 1918, 75 in 1917, 326 in 1916, and 338 in 1915. The cases reported to the Public Health Department in those years numbered 1,726, and the proportion of these that ended fatally

**Cerebro-spinal,
tubercular,
and simple
meningitis.**

was 51 per cent. The numbers of deaths from cerebro-spinal, tubercular, and simple meningitis during the last eleven years were as follows :—

DEATHS FROM DIFFERENT FORMS OF MENINGITIS, 1914-24.

Year.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.		Tubercular Meningitis.		Simple Meningitis.		Total—All Forms of Meningitis.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1914 ..	12	5	42	30	90	63	144	98
1915 ..	239	99	35	35	74	46	348	180
1916 ..	191	135	29	40	56	39	276	214
1917 ..	48	27	56	41	37	35	141	103
1918 ..	28	9	55	40	39	35	122	84
1919 ..	7	7	38	24	33	29	78	60
1920 ..	12	3	49	34	46	35	107	72
1921 ..	8	9	42	44	62	37	112	90
1922 ..	9	3	30	28	67	40	106	71
1923 ..	7	6	32	34	64	43	103	83
1924 ..	19	14	47	32	47	29	113	75

Age incidence of different forms of meningitis.

The next table shows the incidence of mortality at various ages from different forms of meningitis for the period 1915-24 :—

DEATHS AT DIFFERENT AGES FROM MENINGITIS, 1915-24.

Age Group.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.		Tubercular Meningitis.		Simple Meningitis.		Total—All Forms of Meningitis.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 5 ..	144	106	238	176	235	202	667	434
5 to 15 ..	69	54	83	79	62	50	214	183
15 „ 25 ..	158	52	40	55	39	38	237	145
25 „ 35 ..	76	26	30	21	29	20	135	67
35 „ 45 ..	49	24	13	12	32	23	94	59
45 „ 55 ..	49	28	4	9	37	16	90	53
55 „ 65 ..	16	14	3	..	21	9	40	23
65 and over	7	8	2	..	20	10	29	18
Total 1915-24	568	312	413	352	525	363	1,506	1,032

On the average of the last ten years the deaths of children under 5 years of age from cerebro-spinal, tubercular, and simple meningitis represented 28, 54, and 55 per cent. respectively of the total deaths from these diseases. Of the 33 persons who succumbed to cerebro-spinal meningitis in 1924, 24 were under 5 and 25 were under 15 years of age. Up to the age of 15 years the incidence of the mortality from this disease in the period 1915-24 was 33 per cent. higher for males than for females, while for the age group 15 to 45 the rate for the former was about 2·8 times that for the latter.

**Diseases of
the spine.**

In 1924 locomotor ataxia and other diseases of the spine, excluding infantile paralysis, accounted for 65 male and 26 female deaths, representing a death rate of 55 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 49 in the previous year, 38 in 1922, 52 in 1921, 45 in 1920, 78 in 1919, 88 in 1918, 58 in 1917, 70 in 1916, 58 in 1915, 75 in 1914, 62 in 1913, and 71 in 1908-12. Of the 13 persons who died from locomotor ataxia in 1924, 11 were males.

**Infantile
paralysis.**

Mortality returns show that infantile paralysis was responsible for 2 deaths in 1924, as against 2 in the previous year, 3 in 1922, 4 in 1921, 4 in 1920, 3 in 1919, 21 in 1918, 6 in 1917, 4 in 1916, 2 in 1915, 9 in 1914, 3 in 1913, and 6 in 1912. Of the 69 persons who died during these thirteen years, 41 were boys. Seven of the victims were under 1 year of age, and 33 were under 5 years. The cases reported to the Public Health Department in 1924 numbered 12, as compared with 7 in the preceding year, 23 in 1922, 27 in 1921, 5 in 1920, 2 in 1919, 303 in 1918, and 32 in 1917.

**Heart
disease.**

During 1924 there were 1,779 deaths ascribed to organic heart disease, 29 to pericarditis, 338 to endocarditis and acute myocarditis, and 93 to angina pectoris. The total—2,239—from these causes represented a rate of 1,364 per million of the population, as compared with 1,423 in the previous year, 1,245 in 1922, 1,267 in 1921, 1,287 in 1920, 1,402 in 1919, 1,400 in 1918, 1,442 in 1917, 1,287 in 1916, 1,134 in 1915, 1,278 in 1914, 1,294 in 1913, and 1,441 in 1908-12. Of the 2,239 persons who died from these diseases in 1924, only 45, or 2.0 per cent., were under 15 years of age. On the average of the three years 1920 to 1922 the deaths from all forms of heart disease per 10,000 of each sex, in age groups, were as follows :—

**DEATH RATES FROM HEART DISEASE AT
VARIOUS AGES, 1920-22.**

Sex.	Deaths per 10,000 Persons aged—									
	0-15.	15-20.	20-25.	25-35.	35-45.	45-55.	55-65.	65-75.	75 and upwards.	All Ages.
Males ..	1.52	1.92	2.04	2.64	5.40	14.52	40.62	112.20	247.10	13.74
Females ..	1.15	1.85	1.53	3.25	5.26	10.73	29.53	85.65	208.17	11.70

The figures indicate that the mortality rate from heart disease is a function of age, and that it attains its maximum at the oldest age. Of the deaths of persons aged 75 and upwards, approximately 1 in 5 is due to some form of this disease.

**Diseases of
the digestive
system.**

In 1924 there were 709 male and 568 female deaths from digestive ailments, representing a proportion of 778 per million of the population, as against rates of 914 in the previous year, 796 in 1922, 1,095 in 1921, 1,147 in 1920, 978 in 1919, 1,030 in 1918, 884 in 1917, 1,206 in 1916, 1,098 in 1915, 1,504 in 1914, 1,220 in

1913, 1,345 in 1912, 1,233 in 1911, and 2,382 in 1890-92. Diarrhoeal diseases were responsible for 581 deaths, which were equivalent to a rate of 354 per million of population, the corresponding rates in previous periods being 480 in 1923, 358 in 1922, 657 in 1921, 639 in 1920, 501 in 1919, 504 in 1918, 408 in 1917, 731 in 1916, 590 in 1915, 941 in 1914, 709 in 1913, 833 in 1908-12, and 1,342 in 1890-92. The age incidence of these diseases shows that they are heaviest at the extremes of life. Of the 581 deaths from diarrhoeal diseases in the year under review, 443, or 76 per cent., were of children under 2 years of age, and 60, or about 10 per cent., were of persons over 65 years of age. There were 61 male and 25 female deaths from cirrhosis of the liver, 51 male and 64 female deaths from other affections of that organ (including hydatids), and 73 male and 74 female deaths from hernia and intestinal obstruction.

Appendicitis. The deaths from appendicitis numbered 123 in 1924, which represented a death rate of 75 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 70 in 1923, 67 in 1922, 57 in 1921, 63 in 1920, 61 in 1919, 66 in 1918, 62 in 1917, 55 in 1916, and 72 in 1915. Hospital records show that during 1924 there were 2,067 cases treated, and that 68, or 3·3 per cent., ended fatally, as compared with fatality rates of 2·1 per cent. in 1923, 2·6 per cent. in 1922, 2·2 per cent. in 1921, 2·7 per cent. in 1920, 3·3 per cent. in 1919, 3·0 per cent. in 1918, 2·5 per cent. in 1917, 4·1 per cent. in 1916, 5·3 per cent. in 1915, and 6 per cent. in the period 1908-12. According to the experience of the three years 1920 to 1922 the death rate from appendicitis is approximately 63 per cent. higher among males than females. The mortality rates at various ages for that period were as follows:—

DEATH RATES FROM APPENDICITIS, 1920-22.

Sex.	Deaths from Appendicitis per 10,000 of each Sex aged—									
	Under 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 25.	25 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 55.	55 to 65.	65 and over.	All Ages.
Males..	0·31	0·87	1·31	0·86	0·74	1·08	0·79	0·85	0·68	0·78
Females	0·30	0·66	0·51	0·59	0·53	0·56	0·40	0·32	0·69	0·48

Diseases of urinary system. In 1924 there were 1,027 deaths attributed to diseases of the urinary system, which corresponded to a rate of 626 per million of the population, as against rates of 628 in the previous year, 624 in 1922, 643 in 1921, 697 in 1920, 645 in 1919, 741 in 1918, 710 in 1917, 705 in 1916, 712 in 1915, 670 in 1914, 724 in 1913, and 700 in 1909-12. Acute and chronic nephritis were responsible for 791 deaths, or 77 per cent., and complaints of the bladder and prostate for 113 deaths, or 11 per cent. of the total referred to maladies of the urinary system. The deaths per 10,000 of each sex, in

age groups, for the periods 1900-02, 1910-12, and 1920-22 are shown in the following table :—

DEATH RATES FROM DISEASES OF URINARY SYSTEM.

Age Group.	Deaths per 10,000 of each Sex.					
	Males.			Females.		
	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.
0-10 ...	·93	·67	·67	·59	·79	·67
10-20 ...	·45	·73	·53	·82	·71	·52
20-30 ...	1·83	1·72	1·23	1·59	1·61	1·72
30-40 ...	3·55	3·03	2·66	4·21	3·76	2·89
40-50 ...	8·12	9·03	6·23	7·26	7·07	5·27
50-60 ...	17·43	18·95	14·59	11·36	13·81	10·57
60-70 ...	39·62	46·63	38·30	21·49	24·44	22·04
70-80 ...	80·68	96·18	97·19	27·70	38·53	40·26
80 and over ...	128·48	153·04	167·09	27·15	43·70	54·38
All Ages ...	8·05	9·18	8·04	4·28	5·34	5·13

The figures for the latest period show that there is scarcely any difference between the rates for males and females under 50 years of age. For older ages, however, the excess of the male over the female rate is very pronounced, especially at ages 70 and upwards. For all ages the rate for males exceeds that for females by 57 per cent.

Deaths from
phthisis at
various ages.

The ages and sexes of those who died from pulmonary tuberculosis in each of the last five years are given in the next table :—

DEATHS FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS AT VARIOUS AGES.

Age Group.	Males.					Females.				
	Year.					Year.				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
0-10 ..	12	3	6	4	2	6	2	5	3	3
10-15 ..	3	3	2	...	...	6	3	4	11	6
15-20 ..	17	16	20	20	20	33	27	34	42	43
20-25 ...	47	56	44	54	53	67	71	69	64	69
25-30 ...	64	64	59	67	62	76	79	57	77	67
30-35 ...	65	51	53	61	60	55	62	71	51	59
35-40 ...	57	68	47	63	66	45	54	45	53	39
40-45 ...	60	70	55	84	60	42	53	41	35	28
45-50 ...	70	69	42	51	47	26	34	27	31	21
50-55 ..	58	46	49	42	57	21	22	17	13	29
55-60 ...	46	42	43	38	49	15	20	16	25	24
60-65 ...	39	40	35	44	35	13	22	6	16	15
65-70 ...	16	18	20	19	14	6	8	7	8	4
70 and over	16	13	6	11	17	9	9	7	10	7
Total ...	570	559	481	558	546	420	466	406	439	414

For the year 1924, the average age of those who died from phthisis was 42 years for males and 34·9 years for females.

The deaths from phthisis in 1924 numbered 960—546 being of males and 414 of females—and equalled a rate of 585 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 620 in the previous year, 565 in 1922, 667 in 1921, 658 in 1920, 739 in 1919, 701 in 1918, 677 in 1917, 743 in 1916, 661 in 1915, 724 in 1914, 755 in 1913, 855 in 1908-12, and 1,365 in 1890-92. In England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Irish Free State in 1923, the deaths from this cause were 836, 820, 1,200 and 1,113 per million of their respective populations. The rates for Victoria are more fully shown in the following table, which gives the mortality per 10,000 of each sex, in age groups, at six census periods:—

DEATH RATES IN VICTORIA FROM PHTHISIS IN AGE GROUPS AT SIX CENSUS PERIODS.

Age Group.	Annual Mortality from Phthisis per 10,000 of Sex.					
	1870-72.	1880-82.	1890-92.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.
<i>Males.</i>						
0 to 15 ...	1·22	1·74	·90	·38	·46	·42
15 " 20 ...	5·71	6·88	5·41	5·06	3·71	2·67
20 " 25 ...	18·75	21·19	18·29	14·35	8·45	7·88
25 " 35 ...	22·21	30·33	23·70	20·31	13·11	9·70
35 " 45 ...	21·83	25·11	28·28	22·07	15·63	12·43
45 " 55 ...	22·24	28·65	31·17	25·05	18·07	13·94
55 " 65 ...	27·86	31·41	36·48	35·75	18·88	13·03
65 and upwards ...	19·56	18·08	25·40	31·07	13·55	8·65
All Ages ...	12·89	15·33	15·73	13·51	8·98	7·11
<i>Females.</i>						
0 to 15 ...	·98	1·76	1·43	·93	·97	·38
15 " 20 ...	12·37	12·50	9·51	8·18	7·62	4·84
20 " 25 ...	19·28	21·00	18·49	12·79	12·68	10·20
25 " 35 ...	22·02	26·56	21·77	18·15	14·03	10·00
35 " 45 ...	21·65	24·06	22·53	17·74	11·51	9·15
45 " 55 ...	19·60	20·72	16·13	14·41	8·18	5·91
55 " 65 ...	10·51	14·26	12·35	12·52	7·47	4·96
65 and upwards ...	12·61	13·12	8·25	8·18	5·29	3·94
All Ages ...	10·62	12·75	11·51	9·72	7·61	5·55

A comparison of the mortalities from pulmonary tuberculosis at the census periods 1910-12 and 1920-22 shows that lower death rates obtained in each age group in 1920-22 than in 1910-12, and that the improvement was greater among females than males. By combining the death rates from pulmonary tuberculosis, as shown above, with those from other forms of tubercular disease, given in a subsequent page, it appears that every section of the community

experienced relief from tubercular diseases in 1920-22 as compared with the previous census period.

The distribution of tuberculous mortality shows that certain urban centres—particularly Bendigo and suburbs—furnish considerably higher death rates than the rural portions of the State. The tubercular death rate among miners is considerably in excess of that among farmers and graziers, and, as the residents of Bendigo and suburbs are largely engaged in mining occupations, while most persons living in rural districts are associated with the farming and grazing industries, the distribution of callings accounts in a large measure for the disparity in the mortality rates from this cause in the divisions of the State referred to. On the average of the last five years the tubercular death rate of Bendigo exceeded the rates of Ballarat and Melbourne by 68 and 71 per cent. respectively. The rates in these localities from phthisis and other tubercular diseases are given in the appended table for the periods 1891-1900, 1901-05, and 1906-10, and each of the last fourteen years:—

DEATH RATES FROM TUBERCULAR DISEASES IN MELBOURNE, BALLARAT, AND BENDIGO, 1891 TO 1924.

Period.	Deaths per 10,000 of the Population.								
	Phthisis.			Other Tubercular Diseases.			All Tubercular Diseases.		
	Melbourne and Suburbs.	Ballarat and Suburbs.	Bendigo and Suburbs.	Melbourne and Suburbs.	Ballarat and Suburbs.	Bendigo and Suburbs.	Melbourne and Suburbs.	Ballarat and Suburbs.	Bendigo and Suburbs.
	Melbourne and Suburbs.	Ballarat and Suburbs.	Bendigo and Suburbs.	Melbourne and Suburbs.	Ballarat and Suburbs.	Bendigo and Suburbs.	Melbourne and Suburbs.	Ballarat and Suburbs.	Bendigo and Suburbs.
1891-1900 ..	16.7	17.1	24.1	4.7	3.5	4.0	21.4	20.6	28.1
1901-05 ..	13.9	15.3	22.7	4.2	4.0	4.7	18.1	19.3	27.4
1906-10 ..	10.8	11.5	21.2	3.0	2.1	2.0	13.8	13.6	23.2
1911 ..	9.9	9.4	19.5	2.6	3.3	2.5	12.5	12.7	22.0
1912 ..	10.0	10.0	17.7	2.0	1.7	2.1	12.0	11.7	19.8
1913 ..	8.8	10.9	20.0	2.2	2.8	2.3	11.0	13.7	22.3
1914 ..	8.9	11.2	11.8	2.0	.9	1.0	10.9	12.1	12.8
1915 ..	7.7	10.2	13.6	1.7	2.1	2.4	9.4	12.3	16.0
1916 ..	8.6	14.3	14.2	1.8	1.5	1.4	10.4	15.8	15.6
1917 ..	7.9	10.9	16.8	2.2	1.7	2.2	10.1	12.6	19.0
1918 ..	8.3	9.2	17.4	1.8	1.3	3.1	10.1	10.5	20.5
1919 ..	8.7	10.8	14.7	1.7	1.0	2.0	10.4	11.8	16.7
1920 ..	7.9	10.6	17.1	1.9	2.0	1.2	9.8	12.6	18.3
1921 ..	8.1	7.0	14.2	1.9	1.3	2.1	10.0	8.3	16.3
1922 ..	6.7	8.1	11.4	1.5	.3	2.7	8.2	8.4	14.1
1923 ..	6.9	7.3	9.9	1.4	2.3	2.1	8.3	9.6	12.0
1924 ..	6.5	5.4	12.8	1.4	.8	2.1	7.9	6.2	14.9

**Prevalence
of phthisis in
different
areas.**

Relatively to population cases of pulmonary tuberculosis are fewer in country districts than in urban areas. The cases reported during each of the last five years in five divisions of the State, and their proportions to the populations of these divisions for the period 1910-19 and the years 1923 and 1924 are given in the subjoined table :—

PHTHISIS IN DIFFERENT AREAS.

Area.	Reported Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.					Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.		
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1910-19.	1923.	1924.
Greater Melbourne ..	653	878	783	750	716	13·9	9·0	8·2
Ballarat and Suburbs	21	36	31	27	20	12·8	6·8	4·9
Bendigo and Suburbs	21	45	52	47	48	18·0	14·0	14·3
Geelong and Suburbs	16	19	10	19	24	7·9	5·1	6·4
Rest of the State ..	211	324	282	245	252	5·8	3·7	3·8
Whole State ..	922	1,302	1,158	1,088	1,060	10·4	6·8	6·5

**Tubercular
diseases
(phthisis
excepted).**

In 1924 there were in Victoria 209 deaths from tubercular diseases (excluding phthisis), which corresponded to a rate of 127 per million, as compared with rates of 123 in the previous year, 120 in 1922, 137 in 1921, 145 in 1920, 126 in 1919, 144 in 1918, 163 in 1917, 136 in 1916, 135 in 1915, 140 in 1914, 156 in 1913, 182 in 1908-12, and 379 in 1890-92. In England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Irish Free State, in 1923, the deaths from similar causes numbered 226, 360, 394, and 298 per million of their respective populations. The death rates in Victoria for various age groups are shown in the following table for five census periods :—

DEATH RATES FROM TUBERCULAR DISEASES (PHTHISIS EXCEPTED) IN AGE GROUPS.

Age Group.	Deaths per 10,000 of each Sex.				
	1880-82.	1890-92.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.
<i>Males.</i>					
0-15 ...	7.98	10.36	5.64	2.75	2.00
15-20 ...	.81	1.17	1.12	1.12	.83
20-25 ...	1.23	.89	1.77	1.23	1.55
25-35 ...	.66	.84	1.91	1.71	1.61
35-45 ...	.88	.77	1.39	1.38	1.15
45-55 ...	.85	.67	1.64	.82	1.17
55-65 ...	1.07	.78	2.40	1.29	1.06
65 and over	2.36	.56	1.17	.59	1.07
All ages	3.55	4.02	2.99	1.70	1.48
<i>Females.</i>					
0-15 ...	7.28	8.43	5.33	2.12	1.57
15-20 ...	1.30	1.27	1.95	2.34	1.13
20-25 ...	.69	1.23	2.09	2.59	1.73
25-35 ...	.41	.88	1.98	1.81	1.18
35-45 ...	.70	.42	1.77	1.33	.78
45-55 ...	.67	.34	1.01	.93	1.01
55-65 ...	.62	.69	.71	1.11	.70
65 and over	1.19	.64	.71	.29	.86
All ages	3.39	3.58	2.91	1.76	1.21

As compared with the period 1910-12 the proportion of persons under 15 years of age who died from tubercular diseases (excluding phthisis) during 1920-22 represented a decline of 27 per cent. for males and of 26 per cent. for females.

**Tubercular
diseases—
Deaths of
recent arrivals.**

The experience of recent years shows that the tubercular death rate in Victoria is but slightly affected by the arrival from beyond Australia of persons suffering from tubercular diseases. Only six of those who died in 1924 had been born outside and resident less than one year in Australia, and 22 had resided in the continent for a shorter period than five years.

**Cancer—
Deaths at
various ages.**

The numbers dying from cancer in different age groups in each of the last five years are given below :—

DEATHS FROM CANCER AT VARIOUS AGES.

Age Group.	Males.					Females.				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
0-15	4	7	6	3	5	7	5	2	3	1
15-25	4	7	7	3	9	3	3	3	7	5
25-35	9	7	12	12	9	16	21	14	12	15
35-45	31	33	31	38	44	62	65	75	73	67
45-55	118	111	105	110	127	139	164	173	193	159
55-65	240	243	278	252	263	194	223	224	236	228
65-75	162	185	219	238	245	159	168	164	210	204
75-85	83	84	103	83	106	83	103	97	109	103
85 and over ..	27	18	21	25	17	25	20	32	21	33
Total	678	695	782	764	825	688	772	784	864	815

The widely different social and economic effects produced by the prevalence of and deaths from the two important diseases, cancer and phthisis, are evidenced by the ages of their victims. For the year 1924 the average age of those who died from cancer was 62·7 years for males and 61·7 years for females, while the corresponding averages for phthisis were 42 years for males and 34·9 years for females.

**Cancer—
Death rates.**

Deaths from cancer in 1924 numbered 1,640, and represented a death rate of 999 per million of the whole population, as compared with rates of 1013, in the previous year, 997 in 1922, 954 in 1921, 908 in 1920, 870 in 1919, 942 in 1918, 925 in 1917, 921 in 1916, 812 in 1915, 830 in 1914, 838 in 1913, 833 in 1908-12,

and 584 in 1890-92. In England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Irish Free State, in 1923, the deaths per million of population from this cause were 1,267, 1,300, 1,068, and 863 respectively.

Cancer death rates, computed in relation to the general population in earlier and later periods, are not fairly comparable owing to the changed age distribution of the people. A more accurate mortality rate is obtained by comparing the deaths with the number of persons in the community of the same sex, in age groups. This has been done for four census periods, when the numbers of the people in age groups were accurately known, and the results are given in the appended table:—

DEATH RATES FROM CANCER IN AGE GROUPS.

Age Group.	Deaths from Cancer per 10,000 of each Sex.			
	1890-92.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.
<i>Males.</i>				
Under 5 ...	·18	·30	·73	·46
5 to 10 ...	·10	·42	·25	·13
10 " 15 ...	·11	·20	·16	·14
15 " 20 ...	·17	·22	·15	·30
20 " 25 ...	·32	·33	·71	·64
25 " 35 ...	·81	1·26	·96	·76
35 " 45 ...	4·29	3·69	3·16	3·31
45 " 55 ...	14·83	14·14	16·03	13·94
55 " 65 ...	31·92	36·00	36·36	40·46
65 " 75 ...	52·75	59·04	74·15	78·21
75 and over	53·55	74·04	88·40	110·12
All ages	6·16	7·52	8·50	9·52
<i>Females.</i>				
Under 5 ...	·09	·26	·19	·39
5 to 10 ...	·10	·04	·10	·17
10 " 15 ...	·06	..	·27	·05
15 " 20 ...	·12	·28	·44	·15
20 " 25 ...	·22	·23	·41	·30
25 " 35 ...	1·68	1·61	1·39	1·28
35 " 45 ...	7·43	6·05	7·26	6·61
45 " 55 ...	18·00	18·13	17·87	19·14
55 " 65 ...	31·79	33·05	38·03	34·48
65 " 75 ...	53·96	51·18	61·66	33·05
75 and over	49·55	62·70	86·19	92·86
All ages	5·57	6·64	8·76	9·63

Deaths from cancer occur at all age periods, but the rates in the foregoing table show that it is essentially a disease of later life, increasing rapidly in the groups past middle age, and reaching a maximum

mortality rate in the oldest age group. From the figures for the periods 1910-12 and 1920-22 it will be seen that there was in the later period a considerable increase in the death rate from cancer.

Seat of
cancer.

The following table shows the seat of cancer in persons who died from this disease in 1924 :—

SEAT OF CANCER.

Seat of Disease.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cancer of the buccal cavity (mouth, &c.) ..	86	11	97
„ the stomach and liver ...	342	218	560
„ the peritoneum, the intestines, and the rectum ...	134	108	242
„ the female genital organs ...	...	161	161
„ the breast ...	...	136	136
„ the skin ...	35	27	62
„ other and unspecified organs ...	228	154	382
Total Deaths ...	825	815	1,640

Thirty-four per cent. of the persons who died from cancer were affected in the stomach or liver. Of the females who died from the disease 36 per cent. were affected in the genital organs or the breast.

During the year 1924, the deaths of 601 men and 664 women were ascribed to senile decay. The deaths at ages 65 and over from all causes during the year numbered 6,090—3,121 of men and 2,969 of women.

Accidental
violence.

Death rates from accidental violence have been lower in late years than in earlier periods, a result that is chiefly due to the lighter mortality rate from accidental drowning, the smaller proportion of the population engaged in country occupations, which are generally of a more hazardous nature than those in towns, and the increasing proportion of females in the community.

In 1924, 606 male and 191 female deaths were attributed to accidents and negligence, which represented a rate of 485 per million of the population. This proportion was 13·6 per cent. above the average rate—427—for the previous five years, and 47 per cent. below the rate—811—for 1890-92. The numbers of deaths from various accidents in 1924 are given in the appended table :—

DEATHS FROM ACCIDENTAL VIOLENCE, 1924.

Nature or Place of Accident.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Poisoning by Food	5	3	8
Snake Bite .. .. .	..	1	1
Other Acute Poisonings	15	11	26
Burns (including Conflagrations)	36	37	73
Absorption of Poisonous Gases	8	2	10
Accidental Mechanical Suffocation	11	6	17
Suffocation in bed (infants)	4	4	8
Drowning	87	35	122
Firearms	25	1	26
Falls	46	6	52
In Mines and Quarries	6	1	7
Machines	8	..	8
Vehicular Accidents—			
On Railways	54	5	59
Motor Car	74	38	112
Motor Cycle	14	2	16
Motor Lorry	7	..	7
Aeroplane .. .. .	..	..	..
Bicycle	3	..	3
Tram Car	13	3	16
Vehicle drawn by Horses	23	5	28
Vehicle, other or undefined	4	..	4
Injuries by Animals	12	1	13
Effects of Heat	4	5	9
Excessive Cold	2	..	2
Electricity	10	..	10
Lightning	1	1	2
Fractures, Unspecified	54	19	73
Other Violence	80	5	85
Total	606	191	797

On the average of the last three years the female mortality rate from accidents was 29 per cent. of the rate for males.

Fatal accidents among males at different ages. The mortality rate from accidents is only one-half as great among males aged 15 to 45 as among men over age 45. The deaths per 10,000 males at certain ages from drowning and other accidents, for the period 1920-22, were as follows:—

DEATH RATES FROM ACCIDENTS—MALES, 1920-22.

	Accidental Deaths per 10,000 Males Aged—							
	15-20.	20-25.	25-35.	35-45.	45-55.	55-65.	65 and over.	15 and upwards.
Drowning ..	1·92	1·13	1·06	1·11	1·46	1·91	2·43	1·44
Other Accidents ..	3·43	4·34	4·91	5·26	6·05	8·24	14·38	5·91
Total Accidents ..	5·35	5·47	5·97	6·37	7·51	10·15	16·81	7·35

For men aged 20 to 35 the death rate from accidental violence is about one-third of that for men over age 65 and slightly greater than one-half of the rate for those aged 55 to 65.

Occupations of men dying from accidents. During the year 1924, 485 males aged seventeen years and upwards died from the results of accidents. The numbers for the different occupations were as follows:—

Occupation.	Deaths from Accidents, 1924.	Occupation.	Deaths from Accidents, 1924.
Labourer (undefined) ..	92	Plasterer	3
Farming, pastoral.. ..	71	Plumber	3
Railway employee.. ..	31	Printer	3
Clerical	22	Traveller	3
Carter, carrier, driver ..	16	Artist	2
Carpenter	14	Builder	2
Gardener,	10	Bricklayer	2
Boot trade	9	Brickwork's employee ..	2
Seaman, shipping	9	Canvasser	2
Blacksmith	8	Chemist	2
Engineering	8	Cold storage employee ..	2
Miner, quarryman	8	Dealer	2
Salesman	6	Engine driver	2
Watchman, etc.	6	Fruiterer	2
Jockey	5	Grocer	2
Merchant.. ..	5	Horse trainer	2
Painter	5	Jeweller	2
Sawyer	5	Liftman	2
Liquor trade	4	Maltster	2
Contractor	4	Manager	2
Electrician	4	Military	2
Motor trade	4	Orchardist	2
Wharf labourer, stevedore ..	4	Teacher	2
Butcher	3	Tramway employee	2
Cook	3	Wood carter, cutter	2
Doctor	3	Woolclasser	2
Insurance inspector	3	Other (specified)	34
Iron worker	3	Unspecified	24
Millhand	3		
Mining manager	3	Total	485

Suicide.

In the year 1924, 96 males and 22 females took their own lives. The deaths represented a rate of 72 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 78 in the preceding year, 81 in 1922, 99 in 1921, 95 in 1920, 89 in 1919, 72 in 1918, 88 in 1917, 83 in 1916, 105 in 1915, 90 in 1914, 103 in 1913, 102 in 1908-12, and 109 in 1890-92. A much lower rate from suicide obtains among females than males, the rate for the former being slightly less than one-fourth of that for the latter on the average of the last five years.

Homicide.

The deaths ascribed to homicide in 1924 numbered 18, of which 6 were of males and 12 of females. These represented a rate of 11 per million of the population, as against rates of 13 in 1923, 15 in 1922, 14 in 1921, 12 in 1920, 18 in 1919, 13 in 1918 and 1917, 14 in 1916, 17 in 1915, 16 in 1914, 18 in 1913, and 19 in 1908-12.

Deaths of married women in childbed.

The death rate of women in childbed varies considerably at different ages, and is less at younger than at older age periods. The number of deaths of married mothers in childbed, and the death rates in various age groups are shown for the decade 1906-15 and the year 1924 in the following table:—

DEATH RATES OF MARRIED MOTHERS IN CHILDBED IN AGE GROUPS, 1906-1915 AND 1924.

Age Group.	Married Mothers.			
	Deaths.		Deaths per 1,000 Confinements.	
	1906-15.	1924.	1906-15.	1924.
Under 20 years	23	3	2·71	2·71
20 to 25 „	184	25	2·85	3·50
25 „ 30 „	326	41	3·60	3·99
30 „ 35 „	334	40	4·59	4·64
35 „ 40 „	346	38	6·86	7·45
40 years and over	156	13	6·90	7·00

The experience of the ten years 1906-15 showed that for the age period 35 years and upwards the deaths of mothers in childbed were 69 per 10,000, as against 37 per 10,000 for those under 35 years of age. For the same term of years the number of deaths per 1,000 married women of all ages in first confinements was 5·57, as against an average of 4·04 for other confinements.

Deaths in
childbed.

The death rate of women in childbed is usually ascertained by comparing the number of deaths of parturient women with the total number of births. The proportions for each of the last nine years, and the averages of previous periods back to 1871 are given below :—

DEATHS OF MOTHERS (MARRIED AND SINGLE) TO EVERY
10,000 CHILDREN BORN ALIVE.

Period.	Number of Mothers who Died Annually of—			Deaths of Mothers to every 10,000 Children Born Alive.
	Puerperal Diseases or Accidents. (Excluding Sep- ticæmia.)	Puerperal Septicæmia.	Total.	
1871-80 ..	127	46	173	64·38
1881-90 ..	121	64	185	59·19
1891-1900 ..	117	66	183	56·01
1901-05 ..	126	58	184	60·92
1906-10 ..	101	46	147	47·17
1911-15 ..	96	58	154	43·55
1916 ..	75	55	130	37·97
1917 ..	89	45	134	40·56
1918 ..	64	43	107	33·86
1919 ..	95	39	134	42·38
1920 ..	132	62	194	53·57
1921 ..	105	58	163	45·80
1922 ..	91	31	122	33·62
1923 ..	79	29	108	30·11
1924 ..	120	56	176	48·70

It will be seen that the death rate of women in childbed has been much less in recent than in earlier periods. The deaths of mothers per 10,000 children born alive were 42·4 in 1920-24, as compared with 43·5 in 1911-15, 47·2 in 1906-10, and 60·9 in 1901-05.

**Puerperal
septicæmia.**

In 1924 there were 56 deaths of married and unmarried mothers from puerperal septicæmia, which corresponded to a death rate of 15·5 per 10,000 births, as against 8·1 in 1923, 8·5 in 1922, 16·3 in 1921, 17·1 in 1920, 12·3 in 1919, 13·6 in 1918 and 1917, 16·1 in 1916, 11·4 in 1915, 16·8 in 1914, 18·1 in 1913, 16·0 in 1908-12, and 18·1 in 1901-07.

**Medical
Attendance at
Confinement.**

With a view to ascertaining the effect of the passing of the Commonwealth Maternity Allowance Act 1912 on the number of mothers who availed themselves of medical attention in confinement, the birth registration records for the years 1911, 1918, and 1924 have been examined, and the proportions so attended have been ascertained for the metropolitan area, the rest of the State, and the whole State.

**MEDICAL ATTENTION OBTAINED AT CONFINEMENTS,
PROPORTION OF TOTAL CONFINEMENTS, 1911, 1918,
AND 1924.**

Year.				Metropolitan Area.	Rest of the State.	Total State.
				per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1911	..	..	..	73	65	68
1918	..	..	..	81	77	79
1924	..	..	..	87	90	89

NOTE.—Stillbirths and abortions have not been taken into consideration.

The above figures give evidence of the beneficial effects of the Act, especially in the country areas, where the proportion of births medically attended has risen from 65 per cent. in 1911 to 90 per cent. in 1924. It will be observed that, in 1924, the proportion for the Rest of the State exceeded that for the Metropolitan area.

In the three years mentioned there were 11, 12, and 9 births respectively registered where no one was shown as being in attendance at birth, but, in the majority of these cases, the children were foundlings.

NATURAL INCREASE.

Natural
increase per
1,000 of popu-
lation in
Australasia.

The natural increase, *i.e.*, the excess of births over deaths, per 1,000 of the population, in the various Australian States and New Zealand, for the periods 1902-06, 1907-11 and 1912-16, and for each of the last eight years, is shown in the following table:—

NATURAL INCREASE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION,
AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND.

Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queens- land.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1902-06	12·30	15·76	15·41	13·28	18·04	18·12	14·68	16·94
1907-11	13·05	17·45	17·03	15·54	18·13	18·85	16·01	17·07
1912-16	13·72	18·04	18·51	17·21	18·65	19·62	16·82	16·70
1917	13·09	18·13	19·37	15·74	16·71	18·57	16·56	16·08
1918	11·53	16·42	17·72	15·43	13·88	17·54	15·01	8·60
1919	8·31	11·10	13·58	11·92	10·47	15·21	10·84	12·03
1920	12·82	15·97	16·47	14·27	14·45	17·60	14·95	15·10
1921	12·64	16·43	17·25	14·05	12·99	16·67	15·04	14·61
1922	13·45	16·76	16·39	14·60	14·62	17·78	15·47	15·04
1923	11·60	15·08	15·06	13·01	14·14	16·34	13·88	12·91
1924	11·96	14·76	15·00	12·89	14·01	15·18	13·77	13·28
Mean 1920-24	12·49	15·80	16·03	13·72	14·04	16·71	14·62	14·19

The smallness of the natural increase in 1919 was very largely due to a heavy mortality rate from influenza in that year. The mean increase in the Australian States for the period 1920-24 was 14·62 per 1,000 of population, which is probably greater than will prevail when the age constitution of the people becomes similar to that of old settled countries. At present the proportion of elderly people is smaller than in those countries, and, partly as a

consequence of this, the death rate is lower. The Victorian death rates are below those of England and Wales at nearly all periods of life. The Australian annual rate of increase due to excess of births over deaths—14·62—would enable a population to double itself in 48 years, while, at the Victorian rate of 12·49 per 1,000 of population, a period of 56 years would be required. In England and Wales in 1924 the excess of births over deaths was 6·6 per 1,000 of population.

MUNICIPAL STATISTICS.

Early
legislation.

Amongst the various enactments which became law for Victoria on its separation from New South Wales was a provision in the Imperial Act authorizing the Governor to incorporate the inhabitants of every county, to form districts for the purpose of local government, and to establish elective District Councils with power to frame by-laws for making and maintaining roads, establishing schools, levying local tolls and rates, &c. Many of the provisions of the Act were found to be unworkable and expensive in the details, and the District Councils therefore discontinued their meetings and practical working under the Act. Improved legislation being required, an Act was passed in 1853, establishing a central Road Board for the whole Colony, with an Inspector-General and staff, and also providing for the creation of local Road Districts under the management of Road Boards. This Act made provision chiefly for local government in country districts, and the greater part of it remained in force until 1863, when it was repealed, and replaced by the Roads Districts and Shires Act. In the meanwhile suburban districts and towns were growing up, and in 1854 an Act was passed for the establishment of municipal institutions in Victoria. This Act also continued in force till 1863, when its chief provisions were merged into the Municipal Corporations Act. Further improvements and extensions have been made from time to time in the Acts dealing with local government, and such government is now practically universal throughout Victoria, the whole area of the State (except French Island) being divided into urban or rural municipal districts. The former are called cities, towns, and boroughs and the latter shires.

The laws relating to local government were amended and consolidated by the *Local Government Act* 1915. The councils of municipalities have power to levy rates, which, together with licence-fees, subsidies received from the State, market dues, rents, and sanitary charges, form their chief sources of income. Their principal functions are to make, maintain, and control streets, roads, bridges, ferries, culverts, sewers, drains, water-courses, and jetties within their respective boundaries; and, under proper by-laws, to control the traffic and regulate the markets, pounds, abattoirs, baths, and places of recreation; also to make arrangements for sewerage, lighting, water supply, and carrying on of noxious trades, and to act as local Boards of Health.

**Cities, towns,
boroughs, and
shires.**

Any portion of Victoria, not exceeding in area nine square miles, and having no point in such area distant more than six miles from any other point therein, which contains at least 500 inhabitant householders, and rateable property capable of yielding £300 per annum upon a rate of one shilling in the pound, may be constituted a borough. Any borough having during the preceding financial year a revenue of £10,000 may be declared a town; or, having a revenue of £20,000, may be declared a city. Any portion of Victoria containing rateable property capable of yielding £1,500 on a rate of one shilling in the pound may be constituted a shire. There are 53 cities, towns, and boroughs in Victoria, and 139 shires. The Governor in Council may unite any two or more boroughs which form one contiguous area so as to form one borough, notwithstanding that the area would exceed the limits above specified; may unite any number of municipalities, one of which is a shire, which form one contiguous area, so as to form one shire, and may sever any portion of a municipal district and attach it to another, annex an outlying district, subdivide any municipal district into any number of divisions not exceeding eight, alter the boundaries, or abolish the subdivisions.

Townships.

On petition by twenty-five ratepayers resident in any portion, not exceeding three square miles in extent, of any shire, and distant more than ten miles from the City of Melbourne, the Governor in Council may proclaim such portion a township.

**Municipal
councillors.**

Each municipality existing at the commencement of the original Act, 29th December, 1854—now incorporated in the Act of 1915—is allowed the number of councillors then assigned to it; but in other cases the number must be some multiple of three, not less than six nor more than 24. The number is usually nine. If the district is subdivided, the number of councillors is three for each subdivision. If at any time in any municipality there is no council or there are not enough councillors to form a quorum, a commissioner may be appointed by the Governor in Council to exercise the powers of the council. Every person of either sex liable to be rated in respect of property in the municipal district of the rateable annual value of £20 at least, whether consisting of one or more tenements, is qualified to hold the office of councillor, with the exception of (a) undischarged bankrupts or insolvents; (b) persons attainted of treason or convicted of felony or perjury or any infamous crime; (c) persons of unsound mind; and (d) persons holding an office of profit under the council or participating directly or indirectly in a contract with the council. The election of councillors takes place annually. One-third of the councillors retire each year by rotation, but retiring councillors may be re-elected. The councillors elect their own chairman; who, in the case of cities, towns, and boroughs, is called the mayor; in the case of shires, the president.

Municipal electors. Every person (male or female) 21 years of age or upwards, liable to be rated in respect of property within a municipal district in respect of which all rates, made before 10th March of the year, have been paid by the 10th June, is entitled to be enrolled as a voter. Plurality of votes is allowed upon the following scale :—

IN CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES.

Properties rated at an annual value of	under £50	..	..	One vote.			
"	"	"	"	£50 to £100	..	..	Two votes
"	"	"	"	£100 and upwards	..	..	Three votes.

IN SHIRES.

Properties rated at an annual value of	under £25	..	..	One vote.			
"	"	"	"	£25 to £75	..	..	Two votes.
"	"	"	"	£75 and upwards	..	..	Three votes.

No person may be enrolled in respect of property rated under £5 a year, unless there is a house on the property, and he resides there. The occupier and the owner are not to be both enrolled in respect of the same property, the former having the prior right to enrolment. Corporations liable to be rated may nominate not more than three persons to be enrolled in their stead, and joint occupiers and owners, not exceeding three, are each entitled to be enrolled. If there be more than three, then the three standing first on the last rate valuation or return are so entitled. No "immigrant" within the meaning of the *Chinese Act* 1915 is entitled to be enrolled unless he is a naturalized or natural-born subject. The *Voting by Post Act* 1915 may be made applicable to the elections for any municipality on the petition of the councillors.

Rateable property. All land situated in a municipal district is rateable property except the following :—Crown lands unoccupied or used for public purposes; lands dedicated by the trustees of agricultural colleges as sites for agricultural colleges or experimental farms; land used exclusively for commons, mines, public worship, mechanics' institutes, public libraries, cemeteries, primary free schools, technical schools subsidized by Government, and charitable purposes; land vested in or held by or in trust for any municipality or council thereof, or any authority under the *Water Act* 1915; and land vested in fee in the Railways Commissioners, Minister of Public Instruction, Board of Land and Works, Melbourne and Geelong Harbor Trusts Commissioners, Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, and Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust. The expression "land" includes, of course, all buildings and improvements thereon. For the purpose of rating the valuation of property is computed at its net annual value, that is to say, at the rent at which the same might reasonably be expected to let from year to year, free of all usual tenants' rates and taxes, and deducting therefrom the probable annual average cost of insurance and expenses (if

any) necessary to maintain the property in a state to command such rent; provided that no rateable property shall be computed as of an annual value of less than £5 per centum upon the fair capital value of the fee-simple thereof. A council may, however, with the consent of the ratepayers at a poll to be held, if demanded, levy rates on the basis of the unimproved capital value of the land. In the case of certain Crown lands occupied (other than under lease) for pastoral purposes only the provision that the annual value must not be less than 5 per cent. on the capital value does not apply, and the occupier is rated on the actual net annual value of the property.

**Rates—
general,
separate, &c.** Rates levied in municipal districts are of three kinds, viz.:—General, extra, and separate rates. General rates are levied at least once in each year by the council of every municipality, and must not exceed in any one year 3s. in the pound of the net annual value, or be less than 6d. in the pound of such value. Every general rate is made and levied on the occupier of the property rated, or, if there be no occupier, or the occupier be the Crown or a public or local body, then upon the owner of the property. Extra rates may be levied in any one or more subdivisions of a district, on requisition by not less than two-thirds of the councillors for the subdivision, provided that both rates together in any subdivision do not exceed 3s. in the pound. Extra rates are levied on all properties alike in the subdivision; but, where any works or undertakings are for the special benefit of any particular portion of the municipal district, a "separate rate" may be levied, with the consent of a majority of the occupiers, and of one-third at least of the owners of the properties affected. The separate rates to be levied may be differential, according to the benefits to be received by different properties, and the amount of the rate must be such as will, in the opinion of the council, suffice to provide for the payment of interest, and periodical repayments of, or a sinking fund for a loan raised on the security of such rate.

Several municipalities in the State have from the year 1920-21 levied the general rate on the unimproved capital value of land instead of on the net annual value of property. Authority for this change was given by an Act passed on 3rd February, 1914, and amended on 6th January, and 14th September, 1920. These Acts were consolidated and amended by the *Rating on Unimproved Values Act 1922* (No. 3199) which was assented to on 23th November, 1922.

**Recovery of
rates.** Under the provisions of the *Municipal Rates Recovery Act 1916* power is given to any municipality to sell vacant land charged with rates unpaid for not less than 10 years and which has been unoccupied for more than 5 years. Prior to the sale the owner of the land must be informed by registered letter, and notices must be posted on the land and at the municipal offices for not less than one month.

Improvement charge. Where under any Act a council is empowered to execute any work at the cost of the owners, or to require such owners to do so, a special improvement charge may be made on the properties affected, on the security of which money may be borrowed for the carrying out of such work.

Incorporation of Melbourne and Geelong. Melbourne and Geelong—the latter of which for many years ranked next in importance to the metropolis—having been incorporated under special statutes prior to the establishment of municipal government on a large scale throughout the State, are not subject to the Local Government Acts except in a few comparatively unimportant particulars. Melbourne was incorporated as a town in 1842, and was ordained a city in 1847. Geelong was incorporated as a town in 1849, and proclaimed a city in 1910.

New Municipalities. A portion of the Shire of Lillydale was excised on 22nd October, 1924, and created a separate municipality with the title of Borough of Ringwood. A portion of the Shire of Nunawading was excised on 23th May, 1925, and a new shire entitled Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham was constituted.

Municipalities: 1920-21 to 1924-25. The total number of municipalities throughout the State in which local government was being administered at the end of the year 1924 was 192. Of these, 25 ranked as cities, 7 as towns, 21 as boroughs, and the remainder (139) as shires. The following is a statement of the estimated population, number of ratepayers, estimated number of dwellings (inhabited and uninhabited), total and annual value of rateable property, and annual revenue of cities, towns, boroughs, and shires in each of the five years ended 1924-25:—

MUNICIPALITIES: 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Year.	Popula- tion.	Number of Rate- payers.	Estimated Number of Dwellings.		Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue
			In- habited.	Unin- habited.	Total.	Annual.	
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—							
1920-21	886,030	237,037	202,581	865	193,947,624	10,864,184	2,314,017
1921-22	914,371*	245,589	204,144*		210,501,055	11,869,636	2,648,855
1922-23	963,180	270,058	217,518*	522	233,586,201	13,116,589	2,992,159
1923-24	998,950	279,292	225,458	911	264,693,364	14,964,345	3,354,343
1924-25	1,031,670	291,910	233,400	1,689	288,230,793	16,388,842	..
Shires—							
1920-21	628,970	198,801	142,684	1,586	205,555,121	10,350,524	1,279,099
1921-22	610,987*	201,956	141,842*		215,984,328	10,875,948	1,382,922
1922-23	616,410	200,834	140,875	1,802	221,623,773	11,200,825	1,496,764
1923-24	627,420	213,317	144,845	1,714	235,274,597	11,816,074	1,646,410
1924-25	635,340	221,345	148,717	1,887	251,480,405	12,588,177	..
Total—							
1920-21	1,515,000	435,838	345,265	2,451	399,502,745	21,214,708	3,533,116
1921-22	1,525,358*	447,545	345,986*		426,485,383	22,745,584	4,031,777
1922-23	1,579,590	470,892	358,393	2,324	455,209,974	24,317,414	4,488,923
1923-24	1,626,370	492,609	370,303	2,625	499,967,961	26,780,419	5,000,753
1924-25	1,667,010	513,255	382,117	3,576	539,711,198	28,977,019	..

* Census figures.

Increases in
value of
rateable
properties and
municipal
revenue.

It will be observed from the figures given below that there has been a very substantial increase in the estimated value of rateable property and in the revenue of municipalities during the period covered by the foregoing table :—

INCREASE IN VALUE OF PROPERTIES AND IN MUNICIPAL REVENUE.

	Increase.		
	1924-25 over 1920-21.		1923-24 over 1920-21.
	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Revenue from all sources.
	Total.	Annual	
	£	£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	94,283,169	5,524,658	1,040,326
Shires	45,925,284	2,237,653	367,311
Total Increase	140,208,453	7,762,311	1,407,637

The number of ratepayers returned for 1924-25 was 513,255, and the total capital value of rateable property £539,711,198, which is equivalent to about 18½ years' purchase on the basis of the annual value of £28,977,019.

Unimproved
Value of
Rateable
Property.

The estimated unimproved or ground value of rateable property in 1924-25 in cities, towns, and boroughs was £144,115,396, and in shires £167,653,603. Improvements are estimated at one-half in the case of urban and one-third in the case of rural properties, which are about the proportions that are found to prevail in New Zealand according to the valuations of the Valuer-General. A table showing the estimated annual, capital, and unimproved values in urban and rural districts in Victoria for a series of years appears on page 397 of the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1916-17.

Properties rated in municipalities. The number of properties upon which the municipalities have levied rates during the past five years has steadily increased, as is shown in the appended statement:—

NUMBER OF PROPERTIES RATED IN MUNICIPALITIES 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Year.	Properties Rated.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
1920-21	278,357	279,731	558,088
1921-22	289,099	287,299	576,398
1922-23	313,055	283,062	596,117
1923-24	332,794	300,168	632,962
1924-25	343,462	310,250	653,712

Cities, towns, and boroughs, 1924-25. The following is a statement of the estimated population, number of ratepayers, total and annual value of rateable property, annual endowment payable by the Government, total revenue, and amount of rate levied in the £ in each city, town, and borough in Victoria. The information relates to the municipal year, 1924-25, except as regards the items "revenue" and "annual endowment," the amounts of which are those for the year 1923-24:—

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES, 1924-25.

Name.	Esti- mated Popu- lation.	Number of Rate- payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total. Revenue 1923-24.	Annual Endow- ment pay- able by the Govern- ment.
				Total.	Annual.		
CITIES.							
Ballarat ..	36,600	8,971	s. d. 2 9	£ 5,067,090	£ 337,806	£ 76,540	£ ..
Bendigo ..	26,150	6,400	2 6	3,494,596	249,614	54,323	..
Brighton ..	25,400	8,092	2 6	7,069,078	399,189	58,576	..
Brunswick ..	48,480	10,278	* 0 6½	8,422,491	549,094	139,938	..
Camberwell ..	33,090	10,100	* 0 4	11,795,093	662,022	88,443	..
Caulfield ..	56,150	17,650	* 0 4½	15,175,526	854,593	135,912	..
Coburg ..	28,190	9,750	* 0 4	3,989,480	295,053	69,117	..
Collingwood ..	34,000	7,590	2 3	8,897,220	444,861	54,281	..
Essendon ..	39,500	11,750	* 0 5	8,872,354	505,694	88,351	..
Fitzroy ..	34,600	7,664	2 2	7,502,130	500,142	57,008	..
Footscray ..	42,000	12,250	2 6	10,162,880	508,144	120,286	..
Geelong ..	15,400	4,700	2 7	4,225,940	211,297	44,295	..
Hawthorn ..	31,580	8,601	2 7	10,384,000	519,200	72,694	..
Kew ..	21,900	5,845	2 7	4,657,575	310,505	51,946	..
Malvern ..	42,000	10,900	2 6	14,646,240	732,312	115,562	..
Melbourne ..	103,700	32,074	2 0	74,144,420	3,707,221	1,096,190	..
Northcote ..	36,130	9,750	2 6	7,597,920	379,896	93,614	..
Port Melbourne ..	13,150	2,889	2 3	1,806,287	144,503	37,119	..
Prahran ..	51,280	13,215	1 11	12,144,000	1,012,000	104,883	..
Richmond ..	43,700	9,130	2 3	9,504,414	528,023	67,469	..
Sandringham ..	16,000	7,865	2 6	3,377,610	225,174	40,519	..
South Melbourne ..	47,200	10,500	2 6	14,984,200	749,210	113,749	..
St. Kilda ..	41,100	9,983	2 0	10,846,812	903,901	97,161	..
Warrnambool ..	8,000	1,689	2 9	1,545,045	90,885	44,246	..
Williamstown ..	22,500	5,000	2 6	2,850,000	199,040	70,734	..

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES, 1924-25—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total. Revenue 1923-24.	Annual Endowment payable by the Govern-ment.
				Total.	Annual.		
TOWNS.							
Geelong West ..	10,140	2,405	s. d.	£	£	£	£
Mildura ..	5,750	1,450	2 8	1,710,780	85,539	17,184	..
Mordialloc ..	7,180	2,582	2 9	1,330,540	66,527	25,314	..
Newtown and Chiltwell ..	7,600	2,035	2 6	2,458,720	122,936	36,083	..
Oakleigh ..	7,380	3,300	* 0 5½	1,765,441	90,598	14,736	25
Preston ..	16,500	14,500	* 0 3½	1,876,411	121,002	26,363	..
Salé ..	3,900	1,050	2 6	4,529,560	226,478	57,095	..
			2 3	668,940	33,447	12,023	25
BOROUGHES							
Ararat ..	5,000	982	2 3	643,260	32,163	17,271	25
Carrum ..	6,200	4,295	* 0 3	1,628,364	80,560	20,541	50
Castlemaine ..	5,450	1,400	3 0	578,925	46,314	9,901	25
Clunes ..	1,200	480	1 9	54,817	7,831	2,008	37
Creswick ..	1,750	542	1 9	77,050	* 7,705	2,505	37
Daylesford ..	3,420	800	2 6	537,100	26,855	5,430	25
Eaglehawk ..	4,720	1,362	2 6	276,420	23,035	8,485	25
Echuca ..	3,930	856	2 9	738,482	40,541	10,127	25
Hamilton ..	5,120	1,353	2 6	1,038,640	51,932	10,893	25
Horsham ..	4,100	1,357	2 9	876,980	43,849	11,590	50
Inglewood ..	1,100	297	2 0	79,200	6,600	2,675	25
Koroit ..	1,860	407	2 6	444,200	22,210	5,895	25
Maryborough ..	4,830	1,152	2 6	323,250	32,335	9,231	25
Port Fairy ..	2,030	502	2 8	396,560	19,828	6,700	25
Portland ..	2,700	1,061	* 0 4½	524,562	27,033	7,365	25
Queenscliffe ..	2,600	634	2 9	345,780	17,289	3,541	50
Sebastopol ..	1,880	472	2 6	186,800	9,340	2,216	40
St. Arnaud ..	3,100	845	2 3	480,420	24,021	4,415	25
Stawell ..	4,650	935	2 7	299,750	29,975	13,241	25
Wangaratta ..	3,800	970	3 0	788,000	39,400	12,349	25
Wonthaggi ..	6,000	1,250	3 0	409,440	34,120	6,210	46
Total ..	1,031,670	291,910	..	288,230,793	16,388,842	3,354,343	710

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

Shires,
1924-25.

The next table contains a list of the shires, and similar particulars to those shown for the cities, towns, and boroughs :—

SHIRES, 1924-25.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total. Revenue 1923-24.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Alberton ..	5,700	1,313	2 0	2,100,740	105,037	13,928	697
Alexandra ..	3,530	882	2 0	1,010,460	50,523	9,486	389
Arapiles ..	2,450	640	1 6	1,272,300	63,615	4,781	153
Ararat ..	6,030	1,690	1 6	4,314,400	215,720	14,507	641
Avoca ..	3,370	1,362	2 0	923,580	46,179	6,534	238
Avon ..	2,520	827	1 6	1,353,320	67,666	6,982	300
Bacchus Marsh ..	3,400	860	2 0	1,046,000	52,300	8,717	203
Bairnsdale ..	8,070	1,840	1 6	2,661,880	133,094	16,053	704
Ballan ..	3,180	1,220	1 6	1,115,700	55,785	4,968	284
Ballarat ..	4,020	940	1 6	1,218,800	60,940	5,815	284
Bannockburn ..	2,690	727	2 0	1,059,020	52,951	6,075	201

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SHIRES, 1924-25—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1923-24.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Barrarbool ..	1,860	470	2 0	894,180	44,709	5,737	210
Beechworth ..	4,660	1,421	1 9	537,600	33,600	10,213	269
Belfast ..	2,610	670	2 0	1,588,780	79,439	8,783	321
Bellarine ..	4,130	1,130	1 9	1,284,120	64,206	6,945	238
Benalla ..	8,000	3,100	1 9	3,082,020	154,101	26,578	714
Berwick ..	9,450	3,625	2 0	2,624,960	131,248	17,163	494
Bet Bet ..	3,580	1,240	1 6	844,000	42,200	5,509	235
Birchip ..	1,960	576	1 6	1,034,160	51,708	5,276	198
Borong ..	5,020	1,467	1 0	2,614,620	130,731	11,193	491
Braybrook ..	5,300	2,570	1 9	1,701,040	85,052	16,359	129
Bright ..	4,120	1,400	2 0	736,840	36,842	6,187	370
Broadford ..	1,450	380	1 9	505,280	25,264	2,139	148
Broadmeadows ..	3,740	3,600	1 9	2,016,700	100,835	10,249	251
Bulla ..	2,650	523	1 6	866,780	43,339	6,072	172
Buln Buln ..	6,010	1,600	2 6	1,453,500	72,675	9,362	616
Bungaree ..	3,200	760	2 0	698,060	34,903	4,598	395
Buninyong ..	5,090	1,641	1 9	1,294,920	64,746	6,693	296
Charlton ..	2,540	835	1 6	1,513,860	75,693	7,488	271
Chiltern ..	2,200	729	1 6	618,140	30,907	3,308	216
Cohuna ..	3,140	708	1 6	1,149,560	57,478	6,563	114
Colac ..	12,600	2,935	1 7	6,627,620	331,381	37,169	138
Corio ..	4,070	1,912	2 6	1,855,580	92,779	13,242	255
Cranbourne ..	5,970	1,910	2 0	2,396,400	119,820	14,027	342
Creswick ..	3,060	918	1 4*	1,136,060	56,803	4,815	383
Dandenong ..	8,000	5,200	* 0 2½	3,308,900	115,445	26,701	209
Deakin ..	4,120	1,192	1 6	1,982,780	99,139	7,999	219
Dimboola ..	6,460	1,343	1 6	3,367,320	168,366	17,276	305
Donald ..	3,600	1,050	1 6	2,203,940	110,197	14,324	323
Doncaster ..	2,950	920	1 9	1,021,160	51,058	6,428	194
Dundas ..	3,640	1,183	1 9	2,879,100	143,955	11,643	517
Dunmunkle ..	4,780	1,200	1 6	2,690,740	134,537	18,032	612
East Loddon ..	1,840	347	2 0	1,552,400	77,620	6,292	271
Eltham ..	4,320	1,690	2 6	921,500	46,075	9,184	208
Euroa ..	4,020	1,136	2 0	1,413,180	70,659	9,042	321
Ferntree Gully ..	8,500	6,700	2 6	2,618,440	130,922	20,848	444
Flinders ..	4,900	5,350	1 9	1,459,980	72,999	12,449	128
Frankston and Hastings ..	5,000	3,928	3 0	1,853,440	92,672	28,128	213
Gisborne ..	2,450	1,070	1 9	801,140	40,057	5,540	168
Glenelg ..	5,580	1,642	1 9	3,115,260	155,763	14,433	591
Glenlyon ..	3,550	1,103	1 9	832,120	41,606	4,523	223
Gordon ..	3,280	880	1 6	1,889,700	94,485	9,230	365
Goulburn ..	2,250	625	1 0	769,680	38,484	4,443	172
Grenville ..	3,290	1,200	1 9	811,305	54,087	5,910	299
Hampden ..	11,070	2,409	2 6	6,319,540	315,977	48,114	370
Healesville ..	3,650	1,256	3 0	704,040	35,202	9,307	236
Heidelberg ..	20,600	14,000	2 0	5,988,520	299,426	84,716	245
Heytesbury ..	4,550	1,064	2 0	2,130,960	106,548	12,562	530
Huntly ..	3,180	960	1 6	1,296,000	64,800	6,807	198
Kara Kara ..	3,160	1,275	1 6	2,176,940	108,847	10,137	316
Karkaroc ..	5,690	1,460	1 6	3,121,240	156,062	16,068	469
Keilor ..	1,350	800	1 9	684,040	34,202	3,266	49
Kerang ..	8,500	2,050	1 3	3,747,320	187,366	31,624	380
Kilmore ..	1,810	540	2 0	274,170	27,417	4,142	136
Korong ..	5,020	1,560	1 6	2,025,640	101,282	9,012	321
Korumburra ..	7,450	1,980	2 0	2,652,460	132,623	20,202	982
Kowree ..	3,470	1,216	1 9	1,953,600	97,680	9,947	430
Kyneton ..	8,060	2,156	2 0	1,762,740	88,137	18,491	365
Lawloit ..	2,280	650	1 9	1,271,295	84,753	6,082	196
Leigh ..	1,570	525	1 6	1,042,720	52,136	4,630	272
Lexton ..	1,680	630	1 6	993,800	49,690	5,275	198
Lillydale ..	10,300	4,050	2 6	2,787,280	139,364	29,559	395
Lowan ..	3,770	1,300	2 3	2,028,520	101,426	15,435	296
Maffra ..	6,000	1,220	1 6	2,894,380	144,719	15,332	483
Maldon ..	3,170	1,105	1 6	709,200	35,460	3,793	185
Mansfield ..	4,090	1,340	2 0	1,708,760	85,438	14,008	542
Marong ..	5,920	1,428	2 0	2,022,440	101,122	10,072	454
Melton ..	1,460	408	1 9	1,073,960	53,698	5,289	145

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

SHIRES, 1924-25—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total. Revenue 1923-24.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Metcalfe ..	2,760	1,000	1 6	797,160	39,858	3,622	162
Mildura ..	8,500	2,200	2 0	2,400,000	120,000	16,515	184
Minhamite ..	1,970	690	2 0	1,848,560	92,428	9,566	321
Mirboo ..	1,620	380	3 0	709,980	35,499	5,034	355
Moorabbin ..	9,190	7,800	2 6	3,100,780	155,039	25,912	296
Mornington ..	2,500	1,395	2 0	1,133,420	56,671	10,397	114
Mortlake ..	3,040	802	1 6	3,587,820	179,391	18,454	346
Morwell ..	3,950	880	2 3	1,299,460	64,973	10,456	435
Mount Rouse ..	2,800	730	1 6	2,113,620	105,681	10,060	198
Mulgrave ..	3,700	2,136	2 6	1,424,680	71,234	7,500	221
Melvior ..	3,500	1,102	1 6	1,165,880	58,294	6,490	221
Narracan ..	7,080	1,368	2 0	2,150,040	107,502	13,944	920
Newham and Woodend ..	2,240	660	2 0	620,000	31,000	5,643	148
Newstead and Mt. Alexander ..	2,700	885	1 6	523,340	26,167	3,062	166
Numurkah ..	5,910	1,296	1 6	3,146,120	157,306	15,222	591
Nunawading ..	15,030	7,850	2 6	5,382,360	269,118	60,914	460
Omeo ..	2,510	814	2 3	892,380	44,619	8,041	836
Orbost ..	3,960	1,005	2 6	1,289,960	64,498	8,572	472
Oxley ..	4,330	922	3 0	916,600	45,830	8,780	471
Oxley ..	4,010	1,005	1 9	1,438,180	71,909	8,738	370
Phillip Island and Woolamai ..	5,430	1,465	2 6	1,584,400	79,220	10,360	545
Portland ..	5,440	2,020	1 6	2,286,820	114,341	8,410	494
Pyalong ..	750	332	1 6	424,340	21,217	1,814	113
Ripon ..	3,600	1,100	2 6	1,833,660	91,683	12,558	221
Rochester ..	6,440	1,669	1 6	2,589,180	129,459	12,968	246
Rodney ..	8,000	1,900	1 9	3,238,800	161,940	16,472	432
Romsey ..	3,290	850	2 0	1,248,680	62,434	7,326	320
Rosedale ..	4,600	1,220	*0 1	3,000,000	149,000	8,740	537
Rutherglen ..	4,090	970	1 6	1,021,000	51,050	6,768	257
Seymour ..	3,910	1,067	1 6	1,027,060	51,353	9,741	420
Shepparton ..	8,000	1,815	1 6	2,685,300	134,265	18,104	469
South Barwon ..	3,380	2,255	2 9	1,010,680	50,534	7,716	137
South Gippsland ..	4,780	1,174	2 3	1,395,600	69,780	7,976	517
Stawell ..	3,460	1,257	1 6	2,021,860	101,090	8,641	308
Strathfieldsay ..	3,460	1,005	1 9	529,040	26,452	3,389	137
Swan Hill ..	12,250	3,887	1 6	5,597,380	279,869	26,638	272
Talbot ..	1,460	568	1 4	580,060	29,003	3,581	134
Tambo ..	4,320	1,040	2 0	1,100,000	55,000	7,770	513
Towong ..	4,460	1,200	2 0	1,807,400	90,370	12,656	578
Traralgon ..	3,470	720	2 3	1,357,440	67,872	10,996	441
Tullaroop ..	2,950	954	1 6	601,095	40,073	6,457	206
Tungamah ..	4,670	1,596	1 0	2,566,860	128,343	9,011	444
Upper Murray ..	2,330	530	1 9	1,052,720	52,636	7,821	307
Upper Yarra ..	5,720	1,365	2 6	761,600	38,080	7,067	221
Violet Town ..	1,940	720	1 6	760,240	38,012	3,049	221
Walpeup ..	5,740	1,600	1 6	1,544,120	77,206	9,094	300
Wangaratta ..	2,500	902	1 6	940,000	47,000	3,742	146
Wannon ..	3,120	1,017	1 6	2,386,700	119,335	11,500	426
Waranga ..	5,600	1,910	2 0	2,141,040	107,052	11,464	370
Warragul ..	5,120	1,253	2 4	1,854,260	92,713	14,896	885
Warrnambool ..	8,460	1,967	1 6	4,407,620	220,381	28,682	678
Werribee ..	5,340	3,860	2 3	1,969,640	98,482	16,094	296
Whittlesea ..	3,590	1,018	2 0	1,512,000	75,600	8,965	226
Wimmera ..	4,330	1,075	1 0	2,619,300	130,965	9,037	360
Winchelsea ..	4,460	1,615	2 0	1,831,280	91,564	13,917	413
Wodonga ..	2,860	602	1 9	737,140	36,857	5,080	169
Woorayl ..	6,150	1,570	2 3	2,145,040	107,252	15,725	1,030
Wycheproof ..	4,310	1,254	1 6	2,078,620	103,931	14,364	328
Yackandandah ..	3,020	903	1 9	830,680	41,534	4,777	337
Yarrawonga ..	2,720	838	1 6	1,219,460	60,973	8,982	281
Yea ..	2,820	820	*0 2	1,229,380	61,469	7,331	377
Total ..	635,340	221,345	..	251,480,405	12,588,177	1,646,410	47,743

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

The following is the number of cities, towns, and boroughs, Ratings in municipalities. and the number of shires in which rates were struck in each of the last five years at the amounts set forth in the first column :—

RATINGS IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Amount levied in the £.	Number of Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.					Number of Shires.				
	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
s. d.										
0 6 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 0 ..	..	..	..	..	..	14	12	9	5	4
1 1 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 2 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 3 ..	..	..	..	..	..	16	9	9	3	1
1 4 ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	1	2	2
1 6 ..	3	..	..	..	..	60	55	53	58	47
1 7 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1
1 8 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 9 ..	4	3	3	3	2	15	20	19	18	24
1 10 ..	..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..
1 11 ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 0 ..	7	6	7	4	3	19	19	26	27	31
2 1 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..
2 2 ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
2 3 ..	9	7	6	8	6	1	6	7	6	7
2 4 ..	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	1
2 5 ..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
2 6 ..	20	23	21	18	15	6	12	9	11	13
2 7 ..	..	1	1	1	4	..	..	..	..	..
2 8 ..	..	1	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..
2 9 ..	..	..	2	5	7	..	..	..	..	1
3 0 ..	..	..	1	2	3	..	..	..	1	4
Total ..	47	46	44	44	44	136	136	136	136	136

The particulars in this table for the five years ended 1924-25 are exclusive of those for the municipalities which levied the rate for the years mentioned on the unimproved value of land.

The figures for the quinquennial period give an average rating of 2s. 4d. in the £ in cities, towns, and boroughs, and of 1s. 8½d. in shires. The average rating in the urban districts is thus shown to be 7½d. in the £ more than in the rural districts. It will be observed that no municipality imposed during the last five years the minimum rate allowed by law, viz., 6d., and that the maximum rate of 3s. in the £ was imposed by only seven municipalities.

A table showing the proportionate number of properties at different rateable values in the years 1901-2, 1905-6, and 1909-10 appears on page 261 of the *Year-Book* for 1916-17.

**Municipal
revenue and
expenditure.**

The ordinary revenue and expenditure of municipalities for each of the last three financial years were as follows:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES, 1922 TO 1924.

Sources of Revenue.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Taxation —	£	£	£
Rates	2,303,664	2,559,847	2,847,282
Licences	137,036	152,437	155,009
Dog Fees	24,316	24,832	26,211
Government Endowment and Grants	75,627	60,607	87,783
Contributions for Streets, Footpaths, &c.	111,983	141,484	180,502
Market and Weighbridge Dues	99,485	99,337	97,794
Sanitary Charges	146,559	162,129	175,520
Rents	102,784	108,502	125,544
Electric Light and Gas Works	722,088	794,544	913,471
Other Sources	308,235	385,204	391,637
Total	4,031,777	4,488,923	5,000,753
Heads of Expenditure.			
Salaries, &c.	319,430	340,319	359,493
Sanitary Work, Street Cleansing, &c.	363,706	396,524	433,220
Lighting	130,722	131,342	134,025
Contributions to Fire Brigades	48,526	49,225	55,412
Public Works—			
Construction	271,007	294,711	404,661
Maintenance	1,324,845	1,366,202	1,845,278
Electric Light and Gas Works	540,704	582,380	680,568
Formation of Private Streets, &c.	147,612	163,660	343,978
Redemption of Loans	136,090	165,675	180,987
Interest on Loans	305,289	343,164	386,946
Charities	26,436	26,288	28,550
Other Expenditure	332,067	356,199	393,545
Total	3,946,434	4,215,689	5,246,663

As compared with 1923, the revenue of 1924 increased by £511,830, as follows:—Rates increased by £287,435, licences by £2,572, sanitary charges by £13,391, rents by £17,042, dog fees by £1,379, electric light and gas works by £118,927, contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., by £39,018, Government endowment and grants by £27,176, and “other sources” by £6,433. The revenue from market and weighbridge dues decreased by £1,543. The expenditure was in excess of the amount for the previous year by £1,030,974. All the items showed increases as under:—Salaries, £19,174; sanitary work and street cleansing, £36,696; lighting, £2,683; contributions to fire brigades boards, £6,187; public works construction, £109,950; public works maintenance, £479,076; electric light and gas works, £98,188; formation of private streets, &c., £180,318; redemption of loans, £15,312; interest on loans, £43,782; charities, £2,262; and other expenditure, £37,346.

Proportion of municipal revenue raised from different sources. Fifty-seven per cent. of municipal revenue in 1924 was derived from rates, 18 per cent. from electric light and gas works, 3 per cent. from licences of all kinds, 2 per cent. from market and weighbridge dues, $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from dog fees, $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from Government endowments and grants, $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from sanitary charges, 3 per cent. from rents, and 8 per cent. from all other sources.

Salaries. In 1924 the salaries of the municipal officers amounted to £359,493, or about 7 per cent. of the entire revenue.

Local charities. A sum of £28,550, or less than 1 per cent. of the revenue, was devoted to the local charities; the greater part of this disbursement was in aid of hospitals, benevolent asylums and associations, and orphan asylums.

Assets and liabilities of municipalities. The assets of the municipalities are shown below under three heads—(1) Municipal Fund, (2) Loan Fund, and (3) Property; and the liabilities under two heads—(1) Municipal Fund, and (2) Loan Fund.

MUNICIPAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1922 TO 1924.

Assets.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£
Municipal Fund—			
Uncollected Rates	176,830	202,251	231,623
Other Assets	636,509	730,603	1,098,843
Loan Funds—			
Sinking Funds—			
Amount at Credit	430,689	455,766	500,214
Arrears Due	511	670	127
Unexpended Balances	442,360	526,622	501,858
Property—			
Halls, Buildings, Markets, &c.	3,254,042	3,470,951	3,956,760
Waterworks	253,520	255,737	264,630
Gasworks	129,020	145,874	174,660
Electric Light Works... ..	1,549,966	1,699,120	1,816,760
Total Assets	6,873,447	7,487,594	8,545,475

Liabilities.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£
Municipal Fund—			
Due on Current Contracts	88,936	155,233	161,031
Arrears due to Sinking Funds	511	670	127
Overdue Interest	6,026	8,054	7,445
Bank Overdrafts	858,733	665,866	892,893
Other Liabilities	389,340	440,031	767,691
Loan Funds—			
Loans Outstanding	5,714,570	6,601,731	7,574,523
Due on Loan Contracts	177,755	380,839	237,695
Total Liabilities	7,235,871	8,252,424	9,641,405

**Municipal
assets and
liabilities
compared.**

The total of the assets of municipalities in 1924 was £8,515,475, and of the liabilities £9,641,405. The aggregate of the current liabilities (Municipal Fund) was £1,829,187, against which there were assets amounting to £1,330,466. The gross liability on account of loan expenditure for works completed and in progress was £7,812,218, which, after deducting sinking funds and unexpended balances, was reduced to £6,810,019. If credit were taken for the value of municipal properties in markets, halls, buildings, gasworks, electric light works, water works, &c. (£6,212,810), the net burden on account of loan moneys would be £597,209.

The valuation of municipal properties is probably an under-estimate, as the particulars furnished under this heading were not in every instance complete.

**Endowment of
municipalities.** An annual endowment to municipalities of £310,000 was authorized by the *Local Government Act* 1874, and it ceased to be payable in 1879. A subsidy, however, in lieu of such endowment, amounting to £310,000, was voted by Parliament annually, and this vote was gradually increased until £450,000 was reached in 1889-90 and 1890-91. Under the *Local Government Act* 1891, £450,000 was provided as an annual endowment for the municipalities. This amount was reduced to £405,000 per annum from 1st January, 1893; to £310,000 from 1st July, 1893; to £100,000 from 1st July, 1894; and to £50,000 from 1st July, 1902. Under Act No. 2025 the endowment was increased to £75,000 for the year 1906-07, and from 1st July, 1907, it was increased under Act No. 2129 to £100,000. Payments were made on the basis of this amount to 30th June, 1915, but the sum payable was reduced to £50,000 for the year ended 30th June, 1916, and was maintained at that amount in the nine succeeding years under the authority of Acts passed periodically. The endowment is payable in equal moieties in March and September of each year, and no city or town is entitled to receive any part of it. The distribution amongst the boroughs and shires is based on the amount of general and extra rates received during the twelve months ended on the preceding 30th September, according to the following scale :—

To every borough or first-class shire	..	3s. in the £	
„ second-class shire	..	5s.	„
„ third-class shire	..	6s.	„
„ fourth-class shire	..	8s.	„
„ fifth-class shire	..	10s.	„
„ sixth-class shire	..	12s.	„

RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

Rating on Unimproved Values.

An Act was passed by the State Parliament on 3rd February, 1914, to provide for optional rating by municipalities on the basis of the unimproved values of rateable property. It did not come into operation until 1st October, 1915. Amendments were made by Act No. 3045, passed on 6th January, 1920, and Act No. 3060, passed on 14th September, 1920. The law on the subject has been consolidated and amended by the *Rating on Unimproved Values Act 1922* (No. 3199), which was assented to on 28th November, 1922.

The Act may be adopted in any municipality by determination of the council or by a proposal for the adoption thereof being carried at a poll of the ratepayers. If the council, by special order, passes a resolution that it proposes to adopt this method of rating, a provisional valuation of all rateable properties within the municipal district (except "special rateable properties") computed at the unimproved capital value, the improved capital value and the net annual value thereof must be made. To the valuation must be added a statement setting forth the amount in the pound of the general rate last made on the basis of the net annual value of rateable properties, and the amount in the pound of a rate on the basis of the unimproved capital value of rateable properties which in its total revenue producing capacity corresponds with the amount in the pound of the said general rate. With respect to each rateable property a statement must be prepared showing the sum which would be leviable on the basis of the net annual value thereof under a general rate of the same amount in the pound as the general rate last made, and the sum which would be leviable on the basis of the unimproved capital value of the property. Notice must be given to each occupier or owner or in a newspaper circulating in the district that such valuation has been made, and a statement containing particulars must be prepared, and must be open for inspection at the municipal offices during office hours by any ratepayer free of charge. After this has been done the municipality must publish in the *Government Gazette*, and in a newspaper generally circulating in the district, a notice that the council proposes to adopt the Act. If, within one month after the date of the last publication of the notice, one-tenth of the ratepayers in writing demand a poll, the proposal must be submitted by the council to the ratepayers, and it shall not be deemed to be carried unless affirmed by a majority of the valid votes recorded, and unless the number of such votes forms at least one-third of the number of votes for which voters are inscribed on the roll.

Where a council of a municipality has not published a notice that it intends to adopt the Act, one-tenth of the ratepayers may demand a poll.

If a proposal is adopted or rescinded, it cannot again be submitted to the ratepayers for three years.

Special rateable properties, such as railways, tramways, waterworks, hydraulic works, electric light and power works, gas works, and any undertaking extending continuously beyond the boundaries of any municipal district which is subject to more than one separate valuation, although there is no actual separation of the different parts of the rateable property, and other land, works or other rateable properties declared to be "special rateable properties" pursuant to the Act are not rateable on unimproved values.

New valuations showing the unimproved capital value, capital improved value, and net annual value are to be made at least once in every five years.

"Unimproved capital value" of land is defined as the sum which the land, if it were held for an estate in fee simple unencumbered by any mortgage, might in ordinary circumstances be expected to realize at the time of valuation if offered for sale on such reasonable terms and conditions as a *bonâ fide* seller might be expected to require and assuming that the improvements (if any) had not been made.

"Capital improved value" of land means the sum which the land, if it were held for an estate in fee simple unencumbered by any mortgage, might be expected to realize at the time of valuation if offered for sale on such reasonable terms and conditions as a *bonâ fide* seller might in ordinary circumstances be expected to require.

"Improvements" in land means all work actually done or material used thereon by the expenditure of capital or labour on or for the benefit of the land, but in so far only as the effect of such work done or material used is to increase the value of the land, and the benefit thereof is unexhausted at the time of the valuation; it does not include work done or material used on or for the benefit of land by the Crown, or by any statutory public body, unless such work has been paid for by the contribution of the owner or occupier for that purpose.

"Net annual value" of rateable property means the net annual value thereof computed as provided in the Local Government Acts, and (in the case of the city of Melbourne and the city of Geelong) includes the annual value thereof computed as provided in any Act or enactment relating to the city of Melbourne or the city of Geelong.

The number of municipalities which levied the general rate on the new system was 8 for 1920-21, 10 for 1921-22, and 12 for each of the years 1922-23, 1923-24 and 1924-25. The following table gives for

these municipalities particulars of the capital value of land (improved and unimproved), the annual improved value, the rating, &c., for the year 1924-25:—

Municipal Statistics.

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RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES, 1924-25.

Municipality.	Capital Value.	Capital Unimproved Value.	Annual Improved Value.	Amount of Rate in the £ on Unimproved Value.	Equivalent Rate on Annual Improved Value.	Amount Collectible in 1925 on Unimproved Value.	Percentage Unimproved to Capital Value.
	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£	
Brunswick City ..	8,422,491	2,532,426	549,094	0 6½	2 6	68,586	30·07
Camberwell City ..	11,795,093	4,817,477	662,022	0 4*	2 5	80,291	40·84
Carrum Borough ..	1,628,364	930,159	80,560	0 3†	2 10½	11,627	57·01
Caulfield City ..	15,175,526	5,247,568	854,593	0 4½	2 3½	98,392	34·58
Coburg City ..	3,989,480	1,994,740	295,053	0 4	2 3	33,246	50·00
Essendon City ..	8,872,354	2,888,415	505,694	0 5	2 4½	60,175	32·56
Newtown and Chilwell Town ..	1,765,441	506,149	90,598	0 5½	2 6½	11,599	28·67
Oakleigh Town ..	1,876,411	879,743	121,002	0 3½	2 1½	12,830	46·88
Portland Borough ..	524,562	222,255	27,033	0 4½	2 11	3,935	42·37
Dandenong Shire ..	3,308,900	1,127,379	115,445	0 2½†	2 0½	11,744	34·07
Rosedale Shire ..	3,000,000	1,506,000	149,000	0 1	0 10	6,275	50·20
Yea Shire ..	1,229,380	603,299	61,469	0 2§	1 7½	5,027	49·07

NOTE.—In addition, there is an extra rate in the £ of—

* 2s. 6d. on the net annual value of special rateable property.

† ½d. in the Centre Ward, and of ¼d. in the North Ward.

‡ 2d. in the Centre Riding, and of ½d. in the South Riding.

§ 2d. in the township of Yea, and of ¼d. in the West Riding.

HOUSING AND RECLAMATION ACTS 1920, 1922, AND 1923.**ERECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES BY STATE SAVINGS BANK COMMISSIONERS.**

An Act (No. 3088) to provide dwellings for eligible persons, and for the reclamation and improvement of insanitary, low-lying or overcrowded areas was passed by the State Parliament on 24th December, 1920. Amending Acts (No. 3249 and 3317) were passed on 21st December, 1922, and 22nd December, 1923, respectively. An eligible person is defined as one who is not the owner of a dwelling-house and is not in receipt of an income of more than £400 a year. Power is given to the Commissioners of the State Savings Bank to acquire land and to erect dwelling-houses thereon, the capital cost to the Commissioners of any dwelling-house, together with the land on which it is erected, not to exceed £850 for houses of wood, or £950 for brick, stone or concrete dwellings.

A person who purchases a dwelling-house from the Commissioners is permitted to occupy it as a weekly tenant, and is required to pay a rental at such rate per cent. per annum on the capital cost, or (where the Commissioners have required the payment of a deposit) on the difference between the capital cost and the amount of deposit paid, as may be determined by the Commissioners, also to pay all rates and taxes, and the cost of insurance, repairs and maintenance. An appropriation is made from the rent to cover interest on the amount of the capital cost outstanding, and the remainder of the rent is allotted towards payment of such capital cost.

When the purchaser has paid 20 per cent. of the purchase money and the amount due by him up to that time by way of instalments he may, if he so desires, execute a mortgage of the property in favour of the Commissioners. Payments in respect of purchase money are to be made in equal weekly, fortnightly, or monthly instalments in accordance with the contract of sale or mortgage entered into, but the period of repayment is not to exceed 28 years.

The number of contracts entered into for the erection of dwellings has been—

For year ended 30th June, 1923	..	..	813
do. do 1924	..	..	806
do. do 1925	..	..	549

The position at 30th June, 1925, with regard to the erection of houses was—

Houses completed	..	..	..	2,587
In course of erection	..	..	..	216
Approved sites for which tenders had not then been accepted	..	..	..	170

Total number of applications approved 2,973

ERECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

Part XXVI. of the *Local Government Act* 1915 dealing with the erection of "workers' dwellings" by municipalities is repealed, but power is given to a municipality to purchase or take compulsorily any land in the municipal district regarded as suitable for the erection of dwelling-houses thereon for persons of small means. Power is also given to erect or purchase dwelling-houses at a cost not exceeding £800 including the cost of the land. These may be sold by the municipality to eligible persons under conditions similar to those existing in the case of the sales by the Savings Bank Commissioners referred to above. They may also be let upon such terms as the council of the municipality thinks fit. Sub-letting by tenants is not permitted.

For the purposes of any housing scheme the municipal council may, out of the municipal fund, advance any money required, if necessary increase the amount of the general rate to an extent not exceeding 6d. in the pound notwithstanding any statutory limit for such rate, and may borrow £100,000 over and above the amount authorized under the *Local Government Act* or any other Act. Once in every year a balance-sheet and statement of accounts must be prepared, setting out full particulars of the operations of the scheme.

Power is given to municipalities to borrow money for the reclamation and improvement of insanitary, low-lying or over-crowded areas. The amount that may be borrowed for this purpose by any one municipality is not to exceed £50,000. The cities of Melbourne and Geelong are separately dealt with as regards borrowing powers. The amounts that may be borrowed by them are as follows:—For housing schemes—City of Melbourne, £300,000; City of Geelong, £100,000: for reclamation schemes—City of Melbourne, £300,000; City of Geelong, £50,000.

When the council of any municipality desires to carry out any housing scheme or reclamation scheme it must prepare a general plan or description of the scheme, showing the character and extent of the works proposed, the mode in which it is proposed to obtain funds for the scheme, an estimate of the cost, the area affected, and a description of the betterment area (if any), *i.e.*, the area within which it is proposed to impose a betterment charge. Power is given to a council to impose a betterment charge amounting to one-half of the amount of the enhanced market value derived by lands from reclamation after making all fair and proper deductions for rates, taxes, assessments and impositions on or in respect of such lands according to such enhanced value.

WAR SERVICE HOMES.

Under agreement with the Commissioner for War Service Homes, dated 8th July, 1922, the State Savings Bank Commissioners are

building dwellings for returned soldiers and other eligible persons under the War Service Homes Acts, the funds being provided by the Commonwealth Government. The dwellings erected or being erected under this agreement are based on the same plans as are used in accordance with the Housing Act, and, as nearly as possible, they are built under the same conditions.

Up to 30th June, 1925, the Bank had entered into contracts for the erection of 2,160 War Service Homes buildings, of which 1,892 have been completed. In addition, the Bank had made advances to 87 soldiers for purchase of existing dwellings or repayment of existing mortgages, and to 18 eligible applicants to enable them to build homes according to their own plans.

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.

Country Roads Board. With the object of improving the main roads of the State an Act was passed on 23rd December, 1912 (Consolidated Act No. 2635), which empowers the Governor in Council to appoint a board to consist of three members. The chairman is to be paid an annual salary not exceeding £1,250, and each of the other members a salary not exceeding £900 (Act No. 3255).

Duties. The duties of the board are to ascertain by survey and investigation what roads are main roads; the nature and extent of the resources of Victoria in metals, minerals, and materials suitable for the purposes of road-making and maintenance, and the most effective and economical methods of dealing with the same, and of supplying and utilizing the material in any part of Victoria; the most effective methods of road construction and maintenance; what deviations (if any) in existing roads or what new roads should be made so as to facilitate communication and improve the conditions of traffic; and to record, publish, and make available for general information the results of all such surveys and investigations. The duty of furnishing information that may be required is imposed on the municipal authorities.

The construction of permanent works and the maintenance of main roads are to be carried out by the municipalities to the satisfaction of the board, but power is reserved to the Governor in Council to direct that permanent works and maintenance shall be carried out by the board.

Finance. For the purpose of making permanent works, power was given to the Governor in Council to issue stock or debentures to the amount of £400,000 a year for five years, and the principal and interest were made a charge upon the Consolidated Revenue of the State. The money so raised was to be placed to the credit of an account called "The Country Roads Board Loan Account," which has been debited with all payments made by the Treasurer towards the cost

of permanent works. Additional sums were made available as follows :—£500,000 under Act No. 3057 passed in September, 1920, which sum was to be raised in the two financial years 1920–21 and 1921–22 at the rate of £250,000 per annum; £500,000 under Act No. 3137 for expenditure during the two financial years commencing 1st July, 1922; and (by Act No. 3334) £1,000,000 over a period of three years from 1st July 1923. A sinking fund of 1 per cent per annum on half the amount borrowed is authorized to be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue until half the amount borrowed is redeemed. The total cost of the works, in the first instance, is paid by the Treasury, but subsequently half the amount expended is refunded by the municipalities affected. In the case of expenditure on permanent works an annual payment to the Treasurer of six per cent. ($4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest and the balance sinking fund) on the amount due by each municipality is provided for, thus liquidating the liability in $31\frac{1}{2}$ years; the cost of maintenance allocated to each municipality must be paid out of the municipal fund before the 1st July in each year. A special rate not to exceed 6d. in the pound on the net annual value of rateable property, to meet the cost of permanent works, may be levied in any ward or riding of a municipality as the council may direct. In the event of default of payment by a municipality the board may levy a rate to meet the amount owing. By Act No. 3057 it is provided that, where any amount remains unpaid on the 1st day of July in any year, such amount, together with interest at 6 per cent. per annum, may be deducted by the Treasurer from any moneys that become payable by him to the municipality out of the Consolidated Revenue or on account of any fees, fines, penalties or the equivalent of licence fees.

All fees and fines paid under the Motor Car Act, all moneys standing to the credit of the Municipal Fees and Fines Trust Fund, all fees paid on the registration or renewal of the registration of traction engines, and all fees received by the Crown under the *Unused Roads and Water Frontages Act 1903* (incorporated in the *Local Government Act 1915*), are credited to the Country Roads Board Fund for maintenance of main roads, and in addition thereto a sum of £10,000 is appropriated from Consolidated Revenue each year.

The amount of the municipal contribution towards the cost of maintenance works is one-third of the amount expended; the contribution is due on the first day of January following the financial year in which the expenditure is incurred and it must be paid before the succeeding first day of July. Power is given by Act No. 2986 to reduce contributions in respect of maintenance where the Board is satisfied that the cost of maintenance is excessive and that such cost is due to motor traffic not of local origin, or to timber traffic.

Since the appointment of the Board in March, 1913, the members have inspected the principal highways throughout the State. Every Shire Council and Borough Council with which the Board is likely to

have dealings relating to the construction or maintenance of roads declared main roads under the Act has been interviewed, and the provisions of the Act have been explained to it. A system for the continuous maintenance of all main roads has been evolved, by which it is hoped that those which are now being constructed or reconstructed will be kept in good condition, while those which are in a fair state of efficiency will be kept up to that standard.

During the year 1923-24 constructional work to the value of £201,615, and maintenance work involving an expenditure of £343,233 were undertaken.

The loan expenditure to 30th June, 1924, for permanent works was £2,933,770, and for developmental roads £2,516,649.

As soon as practicable after the termination of each year the Board must present a report to the Minister setting forth its proceedings, the permanent works constructed, the mileage of the roads maintained, and an account of all moneys received and expended under the provisions of the Act.

Registration of motors, &c. The rates of fees on registration or renewal of registration of motor cars, motor cycles, and traction engines are as follows:—The owners of motor cycles must pay an annual registration fee of £1; of trailers, fore-cars or side cars, 10s.; of traction engines, £6 to £15 according to weight; of motor cars, 3s. to 5s. for each power-weight unit according to the class of motor car; and of trailers attached to motor cars, £1 to £4 according to weight and type.

Developmental roads. Realizing that a scheme for dealing with the principal arteries of traffic only, in a young country that needed development, was inadequate, the Government in 1918 provided a further sum of £500,000 for a system of subsidiary or developmental roads (Act No. 2944). This sum was subsequently increased to £2,000,000 by Act No. 2985, and by additional amounts not exceeding £2,000,000 and £1,000,000 by Acts Nos. 3255 and 3334 respectively. Under this scheme the State provides the whole of the money and makes provision out of State funds for liquidating the liability. The municipalities are required, however, to bear a proportion of the interest on the outlay during the period of the loan, and to maintain the roads when constructed. An amount of £42,037 was expended under Acts No. 2944 and 2985, and of £425,241 under Act No. 3255, during the year ended 30th June, 1924.

State Highways. The *Highways and Vehicles Act* 1924, No. 3379, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1925, provides for the declaration of State Highways, the full cost of maintenance of which is charged against the moneys to the credit of the Country Roads Board Fund.

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD FUND.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1924.

	RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Motor Car Act No. 2702—				By Balance		26,299 11 10
Registration Fees ..	217,361	19	6	„ Maintenance	346,731	10 0
Licence Fees	9,783	15	0	„ Less Refunds	3,498	3 7
Fines	6,196	19	2			343,233 6 5
	233,342	13	8	„ Miscellaneous		144,645 17 7
Less Refunds and Costs of Administration ..	11,091	18	4	„ Advances under Special Loan, Act No. 3161, repaid ..		50,000 0 0
			222,250 15 4	„ Advances to Loan Account on account of Permanent Works Expenditure ..		204,563 5 4
„ Unused Roads and Water Frontages Act No. 1894—				„ Advances under provision of Federal State Grant No. 1	7,407	7 7
Licence Fees	21,987	5	2	„ Advances under provision of Federal State Grant No. 2	4,887	4 9
Less Refunds and Costs of Administration ..	1,876	17	10			12,294 12 4
			20,110 7 4	„ Advances under Act No. 3235—		
„ Country Roads Act No. 2635—				„ Tourist Vote	13,291	14 9
Registration of Traction Engines	948	3	0	„ Less Refunds	19	11 7
Width of Tyres Administration, Fines and Costs	92	14	10			13,272 3 2
			1,040 17 10	„ Balance, 30th June, 1924 ..		21,919 14 7
„ Municipalities Repayments—						
Permanent Works	76,354	14	8			
Maintenance Works ..	134,349	9	9			
			210,704 4 5			
„ Appropriation for Maintenance of Main Roads, Act No. 2986			50,000 0 0			
„ Advance under Special Loan Act No. 3161			50,000 0 0			
„ Hire of Plant	9,494	11	8			
„ Stores and Materials ..	16,477	14	4			
„ Sundries	5,663	0	3			
			31,635 6 3			
„ Advances to Loan Account on account of Permanent Works Expenditure refunded			585,741 11 2			
„ Advances on account of Expenditure under Federal State Grant No. 1 refunded			205,098 12 11			
„ Advances on account of Expenditure under Federal State Grant No. 2 refunded			7,602 13 7			
			4,901 3 5			
„ Advances on account of Expenditure under Act No. 3235, Tourist Vote refunded			12,503 17 0			
			12,884 10 2			
			£816,228 11 3			
						£816,228 11 3

Ordinary receipts and payments.

The following is a statement of the receipts and payments during 1923-24 of the fund established under the Country Roads Act :—

Municipal Statistics.

Loan receipts
and
expenditure.

The expenditure out of loan money on the construction of permanent works (main roads) for the year ended 30th June, 1924, is shown below :—

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD LOAN ACCOUNT, ACT No. 2635.

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1924.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance, 1st July, 1923 ..	2,804	18	1	By Permanent Works	204,563	5	4
„ Proceeds of Loans ..	200,597	10	3	Deduct Refunds	2,947	18	7
„ Advances from Country Roads Board Fund ..	204,563	5	4				
„ Advance from Public Account ..	44,448	10	3	„ Temporary Advances from Country Roads Board Fund refunded ..	201,615	6	9
				„ Public Account—Advance Account ..	205,098	12	11
				„ Suspense Account ..	44,616	18	9
				„ Balance, 30th June, 1924 ..	19	0	0
					1,064	5	6
	£452,414	3	11		£452,414	3	11

Developmental
Roads Loan
Account.

The following statement shows, for the year ended 30th June, 1924, the expenditure out of loan funds on the construction of developmental roads, under the provisions of Acts Nos. 2944, 2985 and 3255 :—

DEVELOPMENTAL ROADS LOAN ACCOUNT—

(ACTS Nos. 2944, 2985 AND 3255).

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1924.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance, 1st July, 1923 ..	18,056	17	6	By Expenditure	473,633	9	7
„ Proceeds of Loans ..	326,508	1	2	Less Refunds	6,301	6	5
„ Public Account—Advance Account ..	122,976	10	10				
„ Adjustment Account ..	26	5	0	„ Public Account—Advances Account ..	467,329	3	2
„ Balance, 30th June, 1924 ..	39,571	3	3		39,809	14	7
	£507,138	17	9		£507,138	17	9

LICENSING FUND.

Licensing
fund.

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Licensing Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1924 :—

LICENSING FUND.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,
1923-1924.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.				
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
Balance, 30th June, 1923	33,714	10	0	Salaries and expenses of Board, office, &c.	5,750	6	10	
Fees	3,486	16	0	Incidental Expenses	10,127	9	1	
Fines	6,964	0	5	Annual payment to municipalities	65,264	0	0	
Sale of confiscated liquor	45	13	6	Compensation	40,290	0	0	
Licences.	Spirit Merchants and Grocers	33,394	8	0	Transferred to Police Superannuation Fund under section 44 of Act No. 2855	23,000	0	0
	Victuallers	260,954	10	1	Purchase of Securities	53,000	0	0
	Temporary	4,122	0	7	Transferred to Revenue under section 39 of Act No. 3259	178,372	10	7
	Railway Refreshment Rooms	2,123	17	0	Balance £341,714 10 0			
	Packet	151	11	0	Deduct			
	Australian Wine	4,947	15	0	Investments			
	Billiard-table	5,344	0	0	in Stock	341,000	0	0
	Brewers	162	9	0				
	Vignerons	85	0	0				
	Club certificates	6,922	10	0				
Permits—Extra Bars	1,096	0	0					
„ Extended Hours	1,027	0	0					
Expenses of holding extended annual sitting of court	21	0	0					
Interest	11,904	15	11					
Cost of taking Poll	50	0	0					
Sale of Rolls	1	0	0					
Total	£376,518	16	6	Total	£376,518	16	6	

Licence fees.

In addition to the endowment of £50,000 the municipalities received from the Government in 1923-24 a sum of £65,264 out of the Licensing Fund under Acts Nos. 2683, 2855, and 2995, this being the equivalent for (1) fees for licences; (2) fees for the registration of brewers and spirit merchants; and (3) fines, penalties,

and forfeitures incurred under the *Licensing Act* 1915. The particulars of this payment are as follows :—

EQUIVALENT FOR LICENCE FEES, ETC., 1923-24.

	£
Paid to Cities	31,316
„ Towns	516
„ Boroughs	7,480
„ Shires—	
1st Class	228
2nd „	10,572
3rd „	9,292
4th „	743
5th „	3,132
6th „	1,161
Total	64,440
Add payments on account of 1922-23	1,140
Deduct unpaid accounts of 1923-24	316
Amount paid in 1923-24	<u>£65,264</u>

MUNICIPAL LOANS.

Moneys may be borrowed by municipalities for permanent works or undertakings or to liquidate the principal moneys owing by the municipality on account of any previous loan. Permanent works include the construction or alteration of streets, roads, bridges, culverts, levees, ferries, jetties, sewers, and drains; the construction or purchase of waterworks, electric light works and gasworks, municipal offices, pounds, abattoirs, sheep dips, market places and houses, weighbridges, workers' dwellings, baths, pleasure grounds, libraries, museums, and places of public resort and recreation; the construction and establishment of hospitals, asylums, and other buildings for charitable purposes;

the construction and laying down of any track, way, or pavement of iron, steel, wood, or stone; the erection of machinery for the treatment of refuse or night-soil, or for quarrying or crushing stone; the works and undertakings connected with the reclamation and improvement of low-lying or over-crowded areas; and the purchase of land or any easement, term, or privilege in, over, or affecting land compulsorily taken for any of the foregoing purposes.

In connexion with loans raised by municipalities, section 375 of the *Local Government Act 1915* provides that, when any municipality incurs a loan and the debentures are payable in different years, the Council shall obtain from the Auditor-General a certificate, in writing, that the amounts proposed to be provided in each year will be sufficient to pay all principal moneys and interest as they fall due. The repayments of principal have to be so provided for, that each year of the currency of the loan shall bear its full share towards liquidation.

Councils may borrow for not more than 40 years upon the credit of the municipality for permanent works or undertakings, or to liquidate moneys owing on account of any previous loan.

The amount of money borrowed by any municipality is not to exceed ten times the average income of the municipality for the previous three years from general rates not exceeding 1s. 6d. in the £1. But, in addition, loans having a currency of not more than 30 years may be raised upon the security of certain income and not upon the credit of the municipality, by the issue of debentures or by mortgage. These loans are not to exceed five times the average amount of such income.

Power is given to any twenty persons whose names are inscribed on the municipal roll to demand the submission of any loan proposal to a poll of the ratepayers.

Municipal indebtedness. The total loan indebtedness of the municipalities at the end of the financial year 1923-24 was £7,574,523, which was due to the Government and the public respectively, as follows :—

MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS, 1924.

				Due to the Government.	Due to the Public.
				£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	...			999,168	5,165,535
Shires	...	...	...	165,118	1,244,702
Total	...	...	...	1,164,286	6,410,237

**Municipal loan
receipts and
expenditure.**

The succeeding statements show the loan receipts and expenditure :—

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1924.

	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	Shires.	Total.
	£	£	£
Receipts during the year	1,030,956	258,085	1,289,041
Balance unexpended from previous year ...	394,506	99,734	494,240
Expenditure during the year	1,044,208	237,215	1,281,423
Balance unexpended at the end of 1924 ...	381,254	120,604	501,858

**Municipal loan
expenditure,
1920 to
1924.**

The municipal expenditure of loan moneys during the year 1924 amounted to £1,281,423, of which £1,044,208 was spent by cities, towns, and boroughs, and £237,215 by shires. The following statement shows the loan receipts and expenditure for the last five years :—

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1920	275,708	259,498
1921	572,851	504,016
1922	797,676	706,677
1923	1,093,858	885,303
1924	1,289,041	1,281,423

**Loans raised
by municipi-
palities,
1924.**

The loan receipts for the year 1923-24 amounted to £1,289,041, and the loan expenditure to £1,281,423. The unexpended balance of loan moneys at the end of the year 1923-24 was £501,858—£381,254 to the credit of cities, towns, and boroughs, and £120,604 to the credit of shires. The following are the particulars :—

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1924.

	Loans from Public.	Loan Expenditure.	Balance Unexpended at end of year—	
			1923.	1924.
CITIES, TOWNS AND BOROUGHS—	£	£	£	£
Ballarat .. ..	..	15,198	32,361	17,163
Brighton	60,000	32,916	1,350	28,434
Brunswick	5,000	24,338	42,586	23,248
Camberwell	20,000	31,881	28,279	16,398
Carrum	3,000	1,171	775	2,604
Castlemaine	7,500	4,482	..	3,018
Caulfield	60,152	47,417	8,708	21,443
Coburg	4,000	7,044	5,572	2,528
Collingwood .. ..	..	..	817	817
Eaglehawk	1,600	1,600	..	..
Essendon	6,000	5,772	1,337	1,565
Fitzroy .. ..	..	1	877	876
Footscray	40,000	42,041	68,849	66,808
Geelong West .. ..	..	10,273	13,212	2,939
Hawthorn	44,000	14,742	7,322	36,580
Horsham	4,800	2,541	..	2,259
Kew	30,000	13,416	5,529	22,113
Malvern	10,000	15,129	9,223	4,094
Maryborough	6,000	6,892	1,257	365
Melbourne	571,481	543,694	..	27,787
Mildura	10,000	9,819	789	970
Mordialloc	6,500	13,131	14,494	7,863
Northcote	23,123	25,150	3,425	1,398
Oakleigh	7,100	6,874	1,954	2,180
Portland .. ..	..	162	224	62
Port Melbourne .. ..	..	..	1,211	1,211
Prahran .. ..	..	17,619	40,561	22,942
Preston .. ..	..	21,195	22,037	842
Queenscliff .. ..	..	..	125	125
Richmond	25,000	31,289	13,279	6,990
Sale .. ..	..	134	539	405
Sandringham	11,200	11,973	773	..
South Melbourne	25,000	17,669	2,099	9,430
St Arnaud	3,000	1,756	1,096	2,340
St Kilda	10,000	30,721	48,755	28,034
Stawell	9,500	9,776	2,576	2,300
Wangaratta .. ..	..	821	1,428	607
Warrnambool .. ..	..	5,599	6,458	859
Williamstown	27,000	19,458	1,371	8,913
Wonthaggi .. ..	..	514	3,258	2,744
Total	1,030,956	1,044,208	394,506	381,254
SHIRES—	£	£	£	£
Alberton	11,200	2,256	..	8,944
Barrabool .. ..	..	19	19	..
Belfast .. ..	..	12	12	..
Berwick	3,000	4,593	3,578	1,985

* Of this amount £82,284 was transferred from the Electric Supply Depreciation and Renewals Fund, and £18,197 from the General Depreciation and Renewals Fund to Loan Account.

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1924—continued.

	Loans from Public.	Loan Expenditure.	Balance Unexpended at end of year—	
			1923.	1924.
SHIRES—continued.	£	£	£	£
Bet Bet .. ..	..	..	66	66
Borong	3,000	3,063	203	140
Braybrook .. ..	..	809	858	49
Bright	6,200	7,123	1,051	128
Charlton	3,900	3,000	..	..
Chiltern	2,500	2,500	..	..
Cohuna	8,600	4,680	..	3,920
Colac .. ..	..	273	489	216
Corio	8,250	6,016	307	2,541
Dandenong	6,954	14,170	13,007	5,791
Dimboola	6,000	4,170	..	1,830
Donald .. ..	..	44	63	19
Doncaster	1,500	1,500	..	..
Dunmunkle	6,000	4,900	..	1,100
Eltham .. ..	..	3,591	3,600	9
Euroa	4,700	1,200	..	3,500
Ferntree Gully	10,300	15,320	6,048	1,028
Frankston and Hastings	8,500	3,591	9,728	14,637
Gleneig	15,000	5,833	..	9,167
Healesville	4,000	5,798	1,798	..
Heidelberg	35,381	40,280	17,241	12,342
Heytesbury .. ..	..	..	93	93
Huntly .. ..	..	..	930	930
Kara Kara	5,000	1,728	..	3,272
Kyneton .. ..	..	1,400	1,400	..
Lillydale .. ..	..	1,499	1,716	217
Mansfield	600	627	27	..
Melton .. ..	..	..	200	200
Mildura .. ..	..	2,651	4,344	1,693
Moorabbin .. ..	..	5,407	5,885	478
Mornington	1,200	3,172	3,250	1,278
Mulgrave .. ..	..	747	747	..
Numurkah	3,500	2,000	..	1,500
Nunawading	62,000	46,165	377	16,212
Rochester .. ..	..	749	1,553	804
Rodney	8,100	6,331	..	1,769
Shepparton	7,000	6,655	2,169	2,514
South Barwon .. ..	..	2,443	2,791	348
Swan Hill .. ..	..	4,677	4,677	..
Tambo	2,000	1,420	..	580
Traralgon	1,000	332	332	1,000
Tungamah .. ..	..	..	28	28
Upper Yarra	2,400	1,427	..	973
Walpeup .. ..	..	5,650	7,883	2,233
Wangaratta .. ..	..	..	87	87
Warragul .. ..	..	252	252	..
Werribee	19,500	5,012	1,862	16,350
Whittlesea .. ..	..	367	606	239
Winchelsea	1,700	1,763	457	394
Total	258,085	237,215	99,734	120,604

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL LOANS REDEMPTION FUND.

Under the provisions of the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act 1918*, No. 2995, a redemption fund was established at the State Treasury, into which the surplus revenue accumulations of the Tramway Board, the municipalities' sinking funds held by the State Treasurer, and annual contributions (in most cases for twenty years) from the metropolitan municipalities concerned were made payable. The greater portion of the loan indebtedness of these municipalities was made a charge against this fund. The liability of the fund includes payments by the municipalities under the *Municipal Loans Act 1915*, No. 2591, and the *Municipalities' Loans Extension Act 1898*, No. 1552, except interest to date of discharge. The repayment of the principal of certain other municipal loans (except those of the City of Melbourne) raised from the public, but excluding loans, the amounts of which were expended on tramways, gas works, electric light works, and markets, is also to be made from the fund. The liabilities and assets of the fund at the date of its establishment are shown in the *Year-Book* for 1920-21, pages 206 and 207.

The receipts and expenditure of this fund to the 30th June, 1924, are given hereunder :—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE FUND TO 30TH JUNE, 1924.

	Receipts.			Expenditure.	
	1923-24.	To 30th June, 1924.		1923-24.	To 30th June, 1924.
	£	£		£	£
Balance, 30th June, 1923 .. ..	..	..	Payment to the Treasurer of Victoria in reduction of the municipalities' liabilities for loan advances under—		
From the Tramway Fund .. ..	..	480,808	Act No. 1552 .. ..	..	309,138
From the Tramway Board — Surplus moneys, Act No. 2995 .. ..	..	170,512	Act No. 2591 .. ..	..	295,042
From the Tramway Board — Surplus moneys, Act No. 3023 .. ..	..	60,680	*Redemption of Municipal Loans—		
From the Tramway Board — Moneys recovered .. ..	..	115,000	Debentures matured	55,388	452,524
Contributions by municipalities	52,933	317,814	Redeemable in instalments .. ..	..	61,443
Stock realized	2,455	86,648	Ordinary loans .. ..	..	95,310
Other receipts .. ..	..	300	Interest due to the Treasurer of Victoria on account of municipalities' loan liability outstanding under Acts Nos. 1552 and 2591 .. ..	..	13,923
			Interest on debit balance of fund .. ..	..	4,372
			Sundries .. ..	..	10
			Balance, 30th June, 1924 .. ..	..	..
Total	55,388	1,231,762	Total	55,388	1,231,762

* Act No. 2995, section 71, sub-section 5, provides for redemptions being temporarily charged to the public account when moneys are not available in the Fund. The amount so charged at 30th June, 1924, was £190,190.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE CITY OF MELBOURNE.

City of Melbourne, revenue and expenditure under various heads

Particulars of the receipts and expenditure for 1924 of the City of Melbourne are given in the statement hereunder.

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1924

Hheads of Revenue.	Amount.
Rates—	£
General	366,184
Lighting	15,260
Licences—	
Publicans'—Equivalent for—From Licensing Act	9,716
Abattoirs—Slaughtering Dues and Meat Supervision Fees	57,812
Drays, Hackney Carriages, Trams, and Motors	572
Other Licences	1,147
Fees under Dog Act	642
Baths	6,779
Market and Weighbridge Fees	54,984
Lighting—Sale of Electric Current and Rent of Meters, &c.	454,440
Closet and Street Cleansing Charges	11,494
Fines and Costs	5,208
Rents—	
Markets and Weighbridges	60,167
Town Hall Premises and Rooms	6,852
Other	6,070
Interest on Fixed Deposits, &c.	1,986
Miscellaneous—	
Desiccators—Sale of Manure	13,130
Fees under Building Act	5,389
Sundries	18,358
Total	1,096,190

Heads of Expenditure.	Amount.
Salaries (including clerical assistance, expenses of audit, collection of statistics, making valuation, and commissions paid in lieu of salaries, &c.)	£ 53,124
Allowance to Lord Mayor	1,500
Closet Cleansing	1,502
Street Cleansing, &c.	86,988
Lighting—Electric and Gas	15,230
Fire Brigades Board—Contribution	11,187
Public Works—	
Roads and Bridges	173,967
Markets and Weighbridges	41,377
Public Buildings (including Abattoirs, Baths, &c.)	69,145
Parks and Planting trees in streets	48,239
Payments under provisions of the Tramway Act No. 2995	2,258
Interest on Loans from the Public	127,254
Sinking Funds—Loans from the Public	17,280
Repayment of Public Loans	10,000
Electric Supply—Maintenance, &c.	373,957
Expenses of paying Interest on Loans	167
Interest on Bank Overdrafts	5,399
Contributions to Charitable Institutions	3,435

CITY OF MELBOURNE : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1924—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure— <i>continued.</i>						Amount.
						£
Contributions to Infectious Diseases Hospital	..	..	..	..	..	6,704
" " Heatherton Sanatorium	..	..	..	..	..	1,547
Law Costs	..	..	..	..	..	1,290
Printing, Advertising, and Stationery	..	..	..	..	..	4,404
Miscellaneous—						
Rat Destruction	..	..	..	..	..	1,270
Gas Conference	..	..	..	..	..	218
Fees—Dog Act	..	..	..	..	..	696
Insurance and Guarantee Premiums	..	..	..	..	..	3,942
Libraries	..	..	..	..	..	475
Elections	..	..	..	..	..	269
Town Planning Commission	..	..	..	..	..	599
Band Performances	..	..	..	..	..	1,480
Milk Supply	..	..	..	..	..	1,087
Baby Health Centre	..	..	..	..	..	550
Ceremonials	..	..	..	..	..	1,362
Ambulance Service	..	..	..	..	..	500
Soldiers' Memorial	..	..	..	..	..	5,000
Superannuation Fund Contribution	..	..	..	..	..	8,330
Retiring Allowance to Employees	..	..	..	..	..	1,752
Visit of British Fleet	..	..	..	..	..	2,613
Sundries	..	..	..	..	..	6,532
Total	..	..	..	..	..	1,092,629

Of the total revenue of the City of Melbourne in 1924, about 35 per cent. was derived from rates, 41 per cent. from the sale of electric light, 7 per cent. from the rental of city property—chiefly markets and shops—5 per cent. from market and weighbridge fees, 6 per cent. from licences, and 6 per cent. from other sources. For public works such as roads and bridges, markets, abattoirs, &c., about 31 per cent. of the total expenditure was incurred; for interest on loans and on bank overdraft and expenses of paying interest, 12 per cent.; for payments to sinking funds and repayment of loans, 3 per cent.; for electric supply, 34 per cent.; for lighting, 1 per cent.; for street cleansing, 8 per cent.; for salaries, allowances, and commissions, 5 per cent.; and for miscellaneous expenditure, 6 per cent.

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS' FIDELITY GUARANTEE FUND.

An Act was passed in 1907 (No. 2080) incorporating the Municipal Association of Victoria, and authorizing it to institute a "Municipal Officers' Fidelity Guarantee Fund," to which any municipality, any authority constituted under any Water Act or any Weights and Measures Union may contribute such sum as may be fixed by the association for a guarantee against loss by the dishonesty of its officers. The Act provided, however, that the fund could not be established until three-fifths of the municipalities in Victoria had agreed in writing to contribute and that the amount to be contributed for a guarantee must not be less than

that payable in 1907 for a like guarantee to any incorporated company or society in Victoria. At any time after the fund has reached £3,500 the rates of contribution may be altered, so that it will be maintained at that sum, and, in the event of the amount at credit being at any time insufficient to pay all the liabilities and expenses, the difference must be made up by payments from all the contributors, each paying *pro ratâ* to its contribution. If the association determines to discontinue business, the funds are to be divided proportionately to the sums contributed during the preceding five years. Payment of contributions is to be made within one month after a written notification has been sent by the secretary. Full and accurate accounts are to be kept of all moneys received and expended, and of the details of the transactions. A balance-sheet, made up to the 30th September of each year, must be prepared, exhibiting a true statement of receipts and expenditure and the balance to the credit of the fund.

More than the required number of municipalities agreed to co-operate, and the fund was inaugurated on 1st January, 1908. Its operation was, at first, restricted by the association to guarantees in respect of municipal officers, but the rules have been altered, and since 1st October, 1914, they have permitted of guarantees being obtained by any Waterworks authority or Weights and Measures Union; such authority or union is required, however, to make a preliminary payment into capital account. The premium revenue for the year ended 30th September, 1914, in respect of guarantees amounting to £198,320, was £1,115, but, under the reduced scale of premiums which came into force on 1st October of that year, guarantees for the year ended 30th September, 1924, amounting to £254,885, were obtained from the Association for a contribution of £858. The amount to the credit of the fund on 30th September, 1924, was £12,447. The claims paid from the inception of the fund to 30th September, 1924, amounted to £2,545.

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.

Melbourne Harbor Trust —receipts and expenditure.

The Melbourne Harbor Trust is a corporate body, which was established in 1876 to regulate, manage, and improve the Port of Melbourne and portions of the Yarra and Saltwater Rivers adjacent thereto, for which purpose certain lands and properties are vested in Commissioners. On 31st December, 1912, an Act was passed by the State Parliament which altered the constitution of the Trust. For seventeen commissioners, of whom six were appointed by the municipalities concerned, three by the owners of ships registered at Melbourne, three by merchants and traders paying wharfage rates, and five by the Governor in Council, there were substituted five commissioners to be appointed by the Governor in Council. Of the commissioners other than the chairman, one must be an owner of ships registered at some British port and trading at Melbourne, one a person engaged in the business of an exporter by sea of Victorian produce, and one an importer by sea of goods into Victoria, and one must be identified

with primary production in Victoria. The chairman's salary is not to exceed £1,500; and the attendance fees of the other commissioners are fixed at £2 2s. per meeting, not more than £250 to be paid to any of these commissioners in any one year. The borrowing power of the Trust is £3,000,000, and the amount of loans outstanding on 31st December, 1924, was £2,670,861. The following are particulars of the ordinary receipts and ordinary and capital expenditure for each of the last five years:—

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: 1920 TO 1924.

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	310,805	415,737	510,240	600,161	630,992
Rents	35,238	37,445	37,449	39,725	36,391
Interest	45	43	80	328	669
Other Revenue	41,885	45,148	50,836	46,194	56,391
	387,973	498,373	598,605	686,408	724,443
Less Amount paid to Consolidated Revenue	75,554	96,224	114,986	135,520	140,382
Total	312,419	402,149	483,619	550,888	584,061
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
General Management and Expenses	31,802	36,882	40,502	35,175	42,484
Flotation and Redemption of Loans Expenses	300	30,140	35	750	5
Maintenance—Dredging	71,017	78,689	90,129	39,774	74,564
„ Harbor	3,721	3,814	3,183	4,613	4,478
„ Wharfs	19,018	23,383	21,475	25,725	32,978
„ Approaches	11,391	14,526	11,264	15,345	18,214
Interest on Loans*	96,961	104,342	131,516	112,659	119,526
Depreciation, Renewals Account, and Sinking Fund	52,500	65,000	100,000	213,000	213,000
Total	286,710	356,776	398,104	447,041	505,249
Surplus on Revenue Account ..	25,709	45,373	85,515	103,847	78,812
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property	3,221	2,461	11,906	33,407	560
Deepening Waterways	80,720	81,699	98,331	150,885	137,488
Wharfs Construction	50,084	79,206	45,613	67,360	194,318
Approaches Construction	2,364	1,565	9,084	7,519	25,483
Other Harbor Improvements	2,936	14,099	25,311	8,204	23,826
Floating Plant	834	2,957	1,708	632	3,192
General Plant	883	1,131	925	2,025	3,429
Total	141,042	183,118	192,878	270,032	388,296

* Exclusive of interest on cost of plant debited to works carried out by day labour.

GEELONG HARBOR TRUST.

Geelong Harbor Trust
—receipts and
expenditure.

An Act to provide for the construction of works in connexion with the harbor at Geelong was passed on 12th December, 1905. This measure made provision for the constitution of the Geelong Harbor Trust and the appointment of three commissioners, the chairman to receive £400 per annum, and each of the other commissioners £200 per annum. The management of the port and shipping is vested in the commissioners. Power is given to the Trust to borrow £591,000 (the whole of which has been raised), and to issue debentures, which may be made payable in London or Melbourne. The following is a summary of the receipts and expenditure for the last five years, the expenditure from ordinary revenue being distinguished from loan expenditure :—

GEELONG HARBOR TRUST—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
REVENUE.	£	£	£	£	£
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	12,772	17,415	21,737	26,387	30,571
Rents, Fees, and Licences ..	4,237	4,189	4,363	4,563	5,487
Sparrovale Farm ..	9,375	8,789	7,852	8,952	6,799
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs	19,548	15,042	16,752	15,754	15,475
Other Revenue	4,088	4,200	3,530	3,024	3,024
Total	50,020	49,635	54,234	58,680	61,356
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
General Management and Expenses	7,765	7,909	7,856	8,362	6,368
Maintenance—Wharfs and Approaches ..	3,393	2,733	2,325	4,311	3,282
" Harbor ..	493	874	505	669	530
" Floating Plant ..	278	467	710	405	987
" Other	1,972	1,213	925	1,421	1,649
Interest on Loans and Sinking Fund	25,540	25,501	25,087	27,849	27,755
Sparrovale Farm	6,511	6,507	5,768	6,601	5,324
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs	3,383	3,451	3,240	3,361	4,599
Corio Quay Power-house ..	10,109	3,755	4,377	2,332	888
Miscellaneous	1,181	1,194	1,274	754	933
Total	60,625	53,604	52,067	56,065	52,315
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property	16,896	5,707	8,541	7,915	10,356
Deepening Waterworks ..	..	..	..	341	14,991
Wharfs and Approaches Construction	113	135	115	10	95
Other Harbor Improvements ..	..	..	..	..	746
Floating and General Plant ..	260	..	..	14	11
Total	17,269	5,842	8,656	8,280	25,899

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.**Creation and constitution of Board.**

The Board was established by Act of Parliament No. 1197, which came into force on 20th December, 1890, and it entered upon its duties on 18th March, 1891.

It consists of 40 members, of whom one is the Chairman, who is elected every four years by the other members, the retiring Chairman being eligible for re-election. The other members must also be members of the respective councils which they represent, and are each elected for three years in the following order of numbers, viz.:—Nine by the Melbourne City Council, four by the South Melbourne Council, three by the Prahran Council, two each by the Collingwood, Fitzroy, Richmond, and St. Kilda Councils, and one each by the other fifteen suburban municipal councils returning a representative, viz., Footscray, Hawthorn, Brunswick, Essendon, Malvern, Brighton, Northcote, Port Melbourne, Williamstown, Caulfield, Camberwell, Kew, Coburg, Heidelberg, and Preston.

Thirteen of the members retire annually on the last day of the month of February, but are eligible for re-election if they remain members of their respective councils.

Functions of the Board.

The functions of the Board are to control and manage the Metropolitan water supply system, including watersheds, reservoirs, weirs, aqueducts, pipes, &c.; to provide the metropolis with an efficient system of main and general sewerage; to provide for the commerce and recreation of the inhabitants of the metropolis in so far as the vesting powers of the Board's principal Act, together with the *Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers Act 1923*, relate to the bed, soil and banks of the River Yarra; to deal also with main drains and main drainage works; and to prevent the pollution of the River Yarra and certain other rivers, creeks, and water-courses within the metropolis, and for other purposes. The primary object of the creation of the Board was to provide the sewerage system mentioned, which, prior to the establishment of the Board, was a long-called-for and pressing want.

Area under Board's control, and population.

Under the provisions of section 71 of the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1915*, and with the consent of the Governor in Council, on 14th December, 1920, the land within 13 miles of the General Post Office was included in the metropolis for water supply and sewerage purposes (*vide Victoria Government Gazette*, 22nd December, 1920). This territory has an area of 434 square miles (277,760 acres) of land area, and on 31st December, 1924, comprised 21 cities, 2 towns, and part of another, also parts of 13 shires, or 37 municipalities in all. The whole of the town of Mordialloc and of the Shire of Moorabbin are included in the metropolis for water supply purposes, and the Board also exercises control (under Orders in Council) for these purposes over a portion of certain other municipalities outside the 13-mile radius, and supplies water to the Metropolitan Farm at Werribee, the Outfall Sewer area, and elsewhere. Various other shires also

arrange with it for bulk supplies of water. The total estimated population supplied with water on 31st December, 1924, was 936,522.

**Board's
borrowing
powers and
liability on
loans.**

The Board is authorized to borrow £14,250,000, this amount being exclusive of loans amounting to £2,389,934 originally contracted by the Government for the construction of the waterworks for the supply of Melbourne and suburbs. These works were vested in and taken over by the Board on 1st July, 1891. Under The Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers Act, No. 3284, it is empowered to borrow £500,000 for works carried out in accordance with that Act, which is included in the sum of £14,250,000 above mentioned.

The liability under loans raised by the Board was £14,502,036 on 30th June, 1924. The Board was at that date empowered to borrow £2,137,898 before reaching the limit of its borrowing powers.

WATER SUPPLY FINANCE.

**Water supply
assessments
and rates.**

By Act of Parliament the rate to be paid in respect of any lands and houses for the supply of water for domestic purposes, otherwise than by measure, is limited to an amount not exceeding 8d. in the pound on the annual valuation of the lands and houses served. The water rate levied in the year 1923-24 was 6d. in the pound on the annual value of property served. Assessments of £20 and under are charged a minimum rate of 10s. per annum. There is a charge of 1s. per 1,000 gallons for water supplied by meter, with the assessed rate as a minimum. For shipping at Melbourne wharfs the charge is 3s. per 1,000 gallons, and at special berths at Melbourne wharfs, with fixed meters, it is 1s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons.

Water meters.

Water meters may be hired from the Board at the following annual rentals, payable quarterly in advance:—
For a $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. meter, 5s.; $\frac{3}{4}$ -in., 6s.; 1-in., 8s.; $1\frac{1}{4}$ -in., 10s. 6d.; and $1\frac{1}{2}$ -in., 14s.

Garden rate.

Areas not exceeding 100 square yards (including paths) are supplied with water without meters on payment of a special rate of 10s. per annum each.

**Assessed
value of
property.**

The total annual value of property assessed for water supply purposes and liable to water rates was £12,189,013 in 1923-24, and £14,176,872 in 1924-25.

**Water rate
receipts.**

In 1923-24 the water rate receipts were as follows:—

		£	s.	d.
Water rate (including arrears)	..	314,432	4	5
Meters	..	179,855	13	0
Special rates	..	4,027	16	11
Total	..	£498,315	14	4

Revenue and expenditure of water supply system.

The total revenue was £524,165, as against £507,475 in the previous year. The cost in 1923-24 of maintenance and management was £36,853, and the amount of interest was £247,883, the total charge being £334,736, as compared with a payment in 1922-23 of £85,407 for maintenance and management, and of £217,723 for interest, or a total charge of £303,130.

Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks system.

The total cost of the water supply system up to 30th June, 1924, was as follows :—

Original water supply works, tank pumping station, &c.	£
Yan Yean system	84,885
Maroondah system	636,475
O'Shanassy system	1,125,020
Service reservoirs	604,886
Large mains	346,231
Reticulation	1,325,794
	1,867,502
Total	<u>£5,990,793</u>

DESCRIPTION OF WATER WORKS.

The Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks.

The metropolis is supplied with water from three independent sources—one known as the Yan Yean system, fed by the watershed of the Plenty River and Jack's Creek from the southern slopes of the Great Dividing Range, supplemented by the Wallaby and Silver Creeks, tributaries of the Goulburn, whose waters have been diverted over the range by means of weirs, aqueducts, and tunnels; a second, known as the Maroondah system, whose watershed is in the Healesville district, and which takes in the water of the Maroondah or Watts River, the Graceburn, Donnelly's and Coranderrk Creeks, and other smaller streams; and a third, known as the O'Shanassy and Upper Yarra system, whose watersheds are in the Upper Yarra above Warburton. As regards the last-mentioned system, at present only the O'Shanassy River, a main tributary of the Upper Yarra, has been tapped.

Total area.

The total area from which water is collected at present from the three systems is 103,840 acres, the whole of which is vested in the Board, and free from settlement or grazing.

Total daily supply.

The total daily quantity of water which can be sent into Melbourne at present from the three systems is 90,000,000 gallons.

YAN YEAN SYSTEM.

**Yan Yeau
system.**

The Yan Yeau system embraces Silver and Wallaby Creeks, Plenty River and Jack's Creek, 28,857 acres, and the catchment areas of Yan Yeau Reservoir, 5,105 acres, the total area being 33,962 acres. The water is collected into the Toorourrong Reservoir, and taken thence to the Yan Yeau Reservoir, where it is stored. This reservoir is an artificial lake situated 22 miles from the city in a northerly direction, and 602 feet above sea level. It is formed by the construction of an earthen bank, 49 chains long, 30 feet high, and 20 feet wide on top, with a slope next the water of three to one and an outside slope of two to one. The reservoir when full covers an area of 1,360 acres, or $2\frac{1}{8}$ square miles, with a maximum depth of 26 feet, and an average depth of 18 feet. The maximum depth of water in the reservoir in 1924 was 26ft. 3in. (Reservoir overflowing) on 7th November, and the minimum depth, 23ft. 8in. on 25th January. Its total capacity is 6,400,000,000 gallons, of which 5,400,000,000 gallons are available for consumption. In the year ended 31st December, 1924, the total intake of the Reservoir was 6,393,020,000 gallons, and the total output was 6,062,260,000 gallons exclusive of loss by evaporation.

From this reservoir the water is forwarded to Morang Pipe Head Reservoir through an open aqueduct capable of delivering 33,000,000 gallons a day when full, and thence to Preston Reservoir, or to Melbourne direct, by a series of pipes.

**High-level
system.** There is also a direct main, called the high-level system, from Yan Yeau to Surrey Hills Reservoir, for supplying the high levels of the eastern suburbs of Melbourne in conjunction with the O'Shanassy and Upper Yarra System. It is capable of delivering 9,000,000 gallons a day.

MAROONDAH SYSTEM.

The Maroondah water is taken by means of small weirs from the watershed of 40,000 acres situated above Healesville, and it is thence conveyed to the Preston Service Reservoirs along an aqueduct (about $41\frac{1}{4}$ miles of open channels, tunnels, and syphons) which is capable of delivering 28,000,000 gallons daily.

O'SHANASSY AND UPPER YARRA SYSTEM.

**O'Shanassy
and
Upper Yarra
watershed.**

The watershed of the O'Shanassy River comprises 32,650 acres, situated near Warburton. The water is diverted by means of a weir and conveyed to Surrey Hills by way of Mitcham in an aqueduct and in tunnels, syphons, and a pipe line, of an aggregate length of $48\frac{3}{4}$ miles. The aqueduct is capable of delivering 20,000,000 gallons daily, but it has been completed in the tunnels and some other parts to a capacity of 60,000,000 gallons to provide for further diversions from the Upper Yarra and its tributaries. The catchment area of Silvan Reservoir, near Mount Dandenong, is about 2,228 acres.

OUTPUT OF THE VARIOUS WATER SYSTEMS IN 1924.

The total output of water from the various sources of supply in 1924 was as follows:—

Output of Water.		Gallons.
From Yan Yean Reservoir	.. ..	6,062,260,000
„ Maroondah Streams	.. ..	8,050,126,000
„ O'Shanassy River ..	.. ..	4,305,263,000
Total Output	.. ..	18,417,649,000

There are two storage reservoirs with a total capacity of 6,460,000,000 gallons and fifteen service reservoirs (including one at the Metropolitan Farm, Werribee), with a total capacity of 176,900,000 gallons, and it is proposed to have, in the immediate future, two other service reservoirs. The Year-Book for 1920-21 contains, on page 218, figures showing the then capacity of the reservoirs in gallons and their reduced level at by-wash.

The average number of people supplied with water during 1924 was 918,485, and the average daily consumption was 54.64 gallons per head. Some districts are supplied outside the Board's sewerage area. The total consumption and average consumption per day are shown hereunder for each month of the year 1924:—

TOTAL AND DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1924.

Month.	Total Consumption of Water.	Daily Average Consumption of Water.
	Gallons.	Gallons.
January	1,942,132,000	62,649,419
February	1,580,358,000	54,495,103
March	1,711,137,000	55,197,968
April	1,332,998,000	44,433,267
May	1,328,102,000	42,842,000
June	1,251,428,000	41,714,267
July	1,355,675,000	43,731,452
August	1,408,449,000	45,433,839
September	1,481,820,000	49,394,000
October	1,563,709,000	50,442,226
November	1,549,792,000	51,659,733
December	1,863,028,000	60,097,677
Total for the year ...	18,368,628,000	...
Daily average for the year ...	...	50,187,508

NOTE.—The maximum daily consumption for 1924 occurred on 15th January and the minimum daily consumption on 20th April of that year. The consumption was 84,454,000 gallons on the former and 31,128,000 gallons on the latter of these two days.

The following table shows for each of the last ten years the daily average consumption of water, and the daily average per head :—

DAILY AVERAGE QUANTITY OF WATER CONSUMED IN
MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS, 1915 TO 1924.

Year.	Estimated Population supplied with Water to 30th June.	Houses sup- plied with Water to 30th June.	Number of Houses for which Sewers were provided to 30th June.	Daily Average of Annual Consumption of Water to 31st December.	No. of Gallons of Water per Head Daily.
				Gallons.	
1915 ...	668,155	150,825	138,108	36,567,614	54·73
1916 ...	687,571	155,208	143,737	36,910,680	53·68
1917 ...	700,321	158,036	148,395	38,604,178	55·12
1918 ...	716,521	161,743	151,622	40,838,819	57·00
1919 ...	731,154	165,046	155,238	42,455,225	58·07
1920 ...	755,536	170,550	158,735	45,187,536	59·81
1921 ...	787,160	177,998	161,955	47,135,608	59·88
1922 ...	817,127	184,453	166,871	48,351,005	59·17
1923 ...	867,230	195,763	175,379	50,691,134	58·45
1924 ...	918,485	207,333	182,987	50,187,508	54·64

These figures show that additional houses to the number of 11,570 were supplied with water during the year ended 30th June, 1924.

SEWERAGE FINANCE.

Sewerage assessments, rates, and receipts. In 1891 the annual value of rateable property within the area then to be sewered was £6,866,313, of which about £1,000,000 related to vacant lands. The collapse of the land boom was followed by a heavy shrinkage in the value of rateable property. A recovery in values has since taken place, and the total of the sewerage assessments for 1924-25 was £14,164,816, inclusive of assessments on vacant lands, and unsewered area and undertakings.

By Act of Parliament the Board is empowered to levy a general sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 2d. in the £1 in sewered areas. The sewerage rate for 1923-24 was 9d. in the £1 in the sewered area. The total annual value of property assessed for sewerage purposes and liable to the 9d. rate was £11,316,333 in 1923-24.

The receipts from the general sewerage rate in 1923-24 amounted to £444,123.

The sewerage revenue for 1923-24 was £180,748, as against £552,643 in the previous year. The outlay in 1923-24 for management, working expenses and repairs was £119,571, and for interest £451,163, the total charges being £570,739, compared with an outlay in 1922-23 of £116,804 for management, working expenses, and repairs, and of £438,577 for interest, or a total expenditure of £555,381.

Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan sewerage system. The cost of sewerage works and house connexions up to 30th June, 1924, was £8,923,580, divided as follows:—

Farm purchase and preparation	£676,591
Rising Mains and outfall sewer	449,135
Pumping station buildings and engines	233,645
Main and branch sewers	2,296,518
Street reticulation	2,828,974
Reticulation of rights-of-way	1,318,930
House connexions branches	544,426
Cost of house connexions chargeable to capital	525,302
Night soil sites	59
Cost of sewerage system	£8,923,580
Householders' debts for house connexions	179,460
River improvements	3,977
Total	£9,107,017

Main Sewers and Subsidiary Main. The sewage of the metropolis is delivered into two main sewers and a subsidiary main leading to the pumping station at Spotswood. The two main sewers are the North Yarra main sewer (Northern system) and the Hobson's Bay main sewer (Southern system). The subsidiary main, which takes in Williamstown, joins the Hobson's Bay main before it enters the pumping station. Further information regarding these is given in the *Year-Book* for 1920-21, page 222.

PROGRESS OF SEWERAGE WORK WITHIN THE BOARD'S METROPOLITAN AREA UP TO 31st DECEMBER, 1924.

On 31st December, 1924, the sewerage system was practically completed in the following municipalities:—Melbourne, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Hawthorn, Prahran, Richmond, St. Kilda, and the thickly populated portions of Essendon. The sewerage system was nearly completed in the municipalities of Brighton, Brunswick, Caulfield, Malvern, the older portions of Footscray and Nunawading, and the thickly populated portions of Camberwell, Coburg, Kew, Northcote, Preston, and Williamstown; while considerable progress has been made in the municipalities of Heidelberg, Oakleigh and Sandringham.

During the twelve months ended 31st December, 1924, the work has progressed in Brunswick, Camberwell, Caulfield, Coburg, Essendon, Footscray, Heidelberg, Northcote, Oakleigh, and Preston, and in a lesser degree in Brighton, Malvern, Nunawading, Sandringham, and Williamstown.

Mains and Branch Sewers.—The Five Mile Creek Branch Section 2 has been constructed in conjunction with Reticulation Area No. 405, Essendon, while the North Road Intercepting Sewer Sections 2 and 3, Caulfield, the Moreland Road Branch Section 3, Coburg, and the Bower Street Branch Section 3, Northcote, have been constructed to meet the requirements of new reticulation areas in the respective municipalities.

Reticulation contracts have been completed in Brighton, Brunswick, Camberwell, Caulfield, Coburg, Essendon, Footscray, Heidelberg, Kew, Malvern, Northcote, Nunawading, Oakleigh, Preston, Sandringham, and Williamstown, while in Coburg a reticulation area has been constructed by day labour. Contract and day labour reticulation extensions have been carried out principally in Brighton, Camberwell, Caulfield, Malvern, and Preston, and in a lesser degree in Brunswick, Footscray, Hawthorn, Northcote, and St. Kilda.

Work in progress—Mains and Branch Sewers.—Gardiner's Creek Main Section 3, Malvern, Camberwell South Branch Section 2 and Golf Links Branch Section 2 (in conjunction with Reticulation Area No. 421), Camberwell, Elster Creek Branch Section 2, Brighton and Moorabbin, Kilby Road Branch Intercepting Sewer, Kew, Williamstown Main Section 6, Williamstown, and Essendon West Branch, Essendon, are now in course of construction. *Reticulation contracts* are being carried out in Camberwell, Caulfield, Coburg, Essendon, Footscray, Heidelberg, Northcote, and Preston; while contract and day labour reticulation extensions to meet the requirements of new buildings or fresh subdivisions are being carried out in Brunswick, Camberwell, Caulfield, Coburg, Footscray, Kew, Malvern, Preston, and other municipalities.

In all $1,690\frac{13}{16}$ miles of reticulation and $176\frac{15}{16}$ miles of main and branch sewers have been completed, making a total length of $1,867\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

PROVISION FOR HOUSE CONNEXIONS WITH THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS.

Number of
Houses for
which sewers
were provided
on 31st Decr.,
1924.

The first house was connected in Port Melbourne in August, 1897. On 31st December, 1924, the number of houses for which sewers were provided was 187,151, including 365 outside gazetted areas.

During the year 1923-24, 10,409 new houses were erected in the metropolitan area, and provision was made for the sewerage of 7,608 houses.

The following statement shows the progress of house connexions to the 31st December, 1924 :—

**NUMBER OF HOUSES FOR WHICH SEWERS WERE
PROVIDED ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1924.**

Municipality.	No. of Houses for which sewers were provided on 31st December, 1924.
Melbourne City ...	27,279
South Melbourne City ...	10,879
Prahran City ...	12,564
Fitzroy City ...	8,065
Richmond City ...	10,426
St. Kilda City ...	9,176
Collingwood City ...	8,646
Footscray City ...	7,703
Hawthorn City ...	7,628
Brunswick City ...	11,268
Essendon City ...	8,358
Malvern City ...	8,796
Caulfield City ...	12,366
Northcote City ...	8,698
Camberwell City ...	5,401
Brighton City ...	5,941
Port Melbourne City ...	3,070
Williamstown City ...	4,352
Kew City ...	4,073
Coburg City ...	3,594
Sandringham City (part of) ...	1,957
Oakleigh Town ...	683
Preston Town ...	2,664
Heidelberg Shire (part of) ...	2,619
Nunawading Shire (part of) ...	345
Total ...	187,151

In addition to the above, the total area comprises part of a town and parts of eleven shires, in which sewerage facilities for houses are not yet provided.

The house connexions pipes join the reticulation pipes, and these are gradually collected into branch sewers, which connect with the sub-mains and mains.

PUMPING STATION.

When collected at Spotswood the two systems are dealt with in separate buildings, and are arranged to be worked either separately or unitedly. The sewage from the two mains enters the pumping station at a level of 37 feet and 45 feet respectively below low-water mark through straining wells, one of which is established on each system. The wells are of 22 feet internal diameter, and each contains two straining cages, one of which is always in position. Most of the solid débris and fibrous matter is caught in the straining cages, the bars of which are $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches apart. The matter collected in the cages is carted away and buried under earth, and in course of time it totally decomposes.

**Pumping
station.**

There are seven steam driven reciprocating pumping engines installed of about 300 horse-power each, with a daily capacity of about 8,000,000 gallons. In addition to these there are five electrical centrifugal pumping units installed, three of 18,000,000 gallons and two of 12,000,000 gallons daily capacity, making a total capacity of 134,000,000 gallons daily. The sewage—relieved of the bulk of the solids in suspension—is raised by the pumps. The average difference in pumping levels is from 40 feet below low water mark at the pumping station to 67 feet above low water mark at the head of the outfall sewer at Brooklyn. The total equivalent head, however—including friction—is taken to be from 120 feet to 125 feet. The sewage is raised and forced through two 6-ft. rising mains (one of mild steel and one of wrought iron) and one 4-ft. rising main with $3\frac{3}{8}$ chains of concrete at the top end. The three mains run side by side, each about 2 miles $63\frac{1}{2}$ chains long. Only two of them are in use at the same time, the other one being kept as a stand-by. There are also two 6-ft. exterior by-pass rising mains laid north and south of the pumping station and having a total length of 14 chains 3 feet. These are provided so that the flow can be by-passed and cleaning and repairs effected to the mains and valves in the immediate vicinity of the pumping station. The total length of all the rising mains is 8 miles $44\frac{1}{2}$ chains. From Brooklyn the sewage gravitates to the Metropolitan Sewage Farm at Werribee in a partly-open and partly-closed channel 16 miles long, of 11 feet diameter, and having a grade of 2 feet to the mile. The present maximum capacity of the outfall sewer (which is only half of the full amount) is 12,500 cubic feet a minute, or $112\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons of sewage per day.

METROPOLITAN SEWAGE FARM.

Sewage farm. The purification of the sewage of Melbourne and Suburbs is effected by filtration and aeration through the natural soil of the Sewage Farm, which contains 13,602 acres 2 roods and $38\frac{1}{2}$ perches ($21\frac{1}{4}$ square miles) of land situated about 24 miles south-west of Melbourne and 4 miles south-west of the township of Werribee in open plain country, and had an average annual rainfall for the past 31 years to 31st December, 1924, of 18.14 inches. The farm has the Werribee River for its eastern boundary, and a frontage of about 6 miles to Port Phillip Bay on the south (extending from the mouth of the Werribee River to the mouth of the Little River). It extends as far north as the main Geelong Road, the land gradually sloping from the north, and the highest point being 44 feet above low-water mark. The head of the outfall sewer at Brooklyn is, as has been mentioned, 67 feet above low-water mark, and the sewage flows by gravitation from there to the farm, a distance of 16 miles, where the point of delivery is 37.25 feet above low-water mark. To irrigate the portion of the farm above that level necessitates pumping.

The land required for sewage filtration purposes is divided into 20-acre blocks (20 chains by 10 chains), which are graded into bays of about half-an acre each, and commanded by distributing drains to facilitate rapid flooding. The sewage is distributed by means of main

carriers and drains which run parallel, north to south, through the farm half-a-mile apart, and sub-carriers and drains which branch east and west every 10 chains. The filtered sewage is discharged into the bay by a series of main effluent channels running parallel, north and south through the farm. Each of the hundreds of paddocks on the farm is supplied with water drawn from a main laid from Melbourne, which also feeds a storage reservoir, recently constructed, of 2,600,000 gallons capacity, to ensure an uninterrupted supply.

The area under irrigation in the year 1923-24 included 303 acres of maize harvested for grain, which were estimated to yield about 60 bushels per acre, 230 acres of lucerne which were cut for hay, and yielded approximately 513 tons or about $2\frac{1}{4}$ tons to the acre, and 7,284 acres of irrigated pasture mainly used for grazing. The total area available for grazing live stock including unirrigated land, &c., was 9,604 acres.

Notwithstanding the large quantity of sewage water required to be put on the pastures summer and winter alike, the effective filtration of which must be the Board's first consideration, a considerable profit is derived from the farming and grazing operations. The principal sources of revenue are from breeding of beef cattle, fattening of sheep and cattle, and grazing of horses on agistment. The transactions in sheep and cattle for the year 1923-24 were— from sheep, profit £2,784; from cattle, profit £19,774. The revenue from agistment (principally horses) was £4,737.

The following are particulars of the sales of produce for the year ended 30th June, 1924 :—Lucerne (chaff and hay), £894; maize, £3,539. Total, £4,433.

Statistical details relating to the farm for the year 1923-24, or as at 30th June, 1924, are as follows :—

Total area of farm	13,603 acres
Average quantity of sewage delivered daily on to farm for year 1923-24 = in gallons	35,749,645
= 131·69 acre-feet per day = 5·316 feet per annum over the total area available for sewage disposal, viz., 9,067 acres.	
Total capital cost of farm to 30th June, 1924 ..	£673,591
Profit on farm trading account for the year after charging up working expenses of farm ..	£19,968
Net cost of sewage purification (after charging £17,851 working expenses of sewage disposal, and £31,995, interest on capital cost) ..	£29,878
Net cost per head per annum of sewerage purification for past 10 years	4·29d.
Population served by sewerage system ..	810,632
Rainfall for year ended 30th June, 1924 ..	24·37 inches
" " " 31st December, 1924 ..	23·41 "
Average rainfall for 31 years to 31st December, 1924	18·14 "

THE BALLARAT WATER COMMISSION AND THE BALLARAT SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.

The Ballarat Water Commission was constituted on 1st July, 1880, by Act 44 Vict. No. 656 (Consolidated Act No. 2747). The Ballarat Sewerage Authority was constituted under the provisions of the *Sewerage Districts Act* 1915 by Order in Council, dated 30th November, 1920, which provides that the members of the Water Commission shall be the Sewerage Authority. The Commissioners number seven; three (one of whom is chairman) being appointed by the Government, and four being elected by the Council of the City of Ballarat.

Water Supply.—The Water Supply District embraces an area of about 27 square miles, including the city of Ballarat, the borough of Sebastopol, and portions of the shires of Ballarat, Buninyong, and Bungaree, and it contains a population of about 43,000. The works comprise six reservoirs, two of which (the Upper Gong Gong and Kirks) are situated about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-east of Ballarat, and are service reservoirs. The two last-mentioned are connected with three of the other basins by an open aqueduct about 8 miles long, which is lined with masonry and concrete. The sixth reservoir (the Moorabool) situate $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-east of Wallace, was completed on 12th August, 1915, and is connected to the aqueduct before mentioned by a reinforced concrete gravity pipe line having a diameter of 2 feet and about 5 miles long. The total storage capacity of the six reservoirs is 2,215,558,327 gallons.

Finance.—The capital cost of construction of the waterworks is £640,000. The liabilities are loans due to the Government, amounting to £314,120 as at 31st December, 1924. The annual revenue is £32,000.

Rating.—The water rate is 1s. in the £ on the net annual value of properties, with a minimum rate of £1 per annum for properties supplied.

Sewerage.—The actual construction of sewerage works for the city began in December, 1922. The main and outfall sewers have been completed, and progress has been made with branch and reticulation sewers and with the treatment or disposal works. The scheme in its initial stages will provide for about 38,000 persons, and eventually for not less than 90,000 persons. The outfall sewer is 3 ft. 3 in. in diameter, and about 1 mile long, while the main sewer is about 2 1-10th miles long. The method of sewage disposal proposed is by sedimentation and digestion tanks and oxidising beds. One mile of branch sewers and 5 miles of reticulating sewers have been laid.

Finance.—The scheme is being financed by loans from the Commonwealth Bank, £130,000 having been provided up to 31st December, 1924.

Rating.—To provide for preliminary administration and interest charges, the rating has been as follows:—1922, 2d. in the £; 1923-24, 3d. in the £; 1924-25, 6d. in the £ on the net annual value of all rateable property within the sewerage district.

GEELONG WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE TRUST.

This Trust was constituted under the *Geelong Municipal Water Act* 1907, and gazetted on 15th January, 1908. It was reconstituted under the *Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Act* No. 2230 (Consolidated Act No. 2661).

The Commissioners number five. Two of these represent the city of Geelong, one the town of Geelong West, one the town of Newtown and Chilwell, and one the shires of Bellarine, Corio, and South Barwon.

The amount of loans which may be raised is limited to £725,000 for water supply undertaking, £610,000 for sewerage undertaking, and £200,000 for sewerage installations to properties under deferred payment conditions. The expenditure on these services to 30th June, 1924, was :—Water supply, £487,228 ; sewerage, £452,074 ; and sewerage installation, £159,338. The annual revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1924, was £42,294 on account of waterworks and £35,824 on account of sewerage.

The population supplied is about 37,000. The number of buildings situated within the "Drainage Area" is 9,873 ; the number within the "Sewered Areas," 8,800 ; and the number connected with the sewers, 8,006.

Water Supply.—The catchment area is about 16,000 acres. Particulars of the works and of the storage capacity of the various reservoirs are given in the *Year-Book* for 1920–21, pp. 226 and 227. The total storage capacity of the reservoirs is 2,709,355,280 gallons.

Sewerage.—The sewerage scheme consists of a main outfall sewer, 4 ft. 3 in. by 3 ft. 3 in., to the ocean at Black Rock, a distance of about 9 miles from Geelong. The drainage area is 8,081 acres and includes the city of Geelong, the town of Geelong West, the town of Newtown and Chilwell, and the suburban areas in the shires of Corio, South Barwon, and Bellarine.

Rating.—The water rate is 1s. 3d. in the pound on the net annual value of properties as certified to by the municipalities, with a minimum rate of £1 per annum for properties supplied.

The sewerage rates are—

- (a) A general sewerage rate of 1s. 6d. in the pound on the net annual value of all rateable properties within the drainage area which are now sewered or may become sewered during the period for which such rate is made.
- (b) An additional rate of 3d. in the pound on the net annual value of all rateable properties within the drainage area which are now or may hereafter become sewered as mentioned under (a).
- (c) A rate of 3d. in the pound on the net annual value of all properties within the drainage area which are not sewered.

In addition to the general and additional rates, the Trust, to prevent or minimize the pollution of the River Barwon, has power to strike a differential or special rate on properties which drain into that river.

BENDIGO SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.

The Bendigo Sewerage Authority was constituted under the *Sewerage Districts Act* 1915 (No. 2761) on 20th November, 1916, and the Sewerage District proclaimed. This District includes the whole area of the City of Bendigo, and the members of the Bendigo City Council constitute *ipso facto* the Bendigo Sewerage Authority. The Chairman is Cr. E. M. Vains, J.P. Permanent surveys, designs, and estimates for the proposed scheme were made, and approved by the Governor in Council, and authority was obtained to borrow £120,000 to sewer the central portion of the city—an area of 935 acres, comprising 3,300 tenements, which was called Sewerage Area No. 1—and to construct the main outfall sewer and treatment works. A loan of this amount was obtained from the Commonwealth Bank at 5½ per cent. Owing to an extension of the sewered area, and an increase in the cost of labour and materials, it was found necessary during the year 1924 to borrow an additional amount of £50,000 from the Commonwealth Bank at 6½ per cent. These loans are secured by debentures, and the former is repayable in twenty years, and the latter in ten years on a 30 years' basis of half-yearly payments of sinking fund and interest. For the purpose of meeting the loan repayments a special rate of 3d. in the pound of net annual value was struck on 11th January, 1924, and 31st January, 1925, and levied upon all property within the Sewerage District for the financial years ending 30th September, 1924 and 1925, the whole city being rated, although the present sewerage proposals are confined to the central area. A sewerage rate of 1s. 6d. in the pound on properties actually sewered was struck on the 11th January, 1924, and 31st January, 1925.

Construction of the main outfall sewer was begun on 30th January, 1921, and completed on 18th January, 1923. Its length is 4 miles, with a grade of 1 in 700. It includes two aqueducts, 42 feet and 80 feet long, respectively. The main sewer, which is 1½ miles in length, has been completed to the end of the sewerage area. Branch sewers have been laid within the city, having an aggregate length of over 20 miles, and providing for the connexion of over 2,050 tenements. The first house was connected on 31st March, 1923; and by 30th June, 1925, 1270 houses had been connected, while 118 others were in course of being sewered.

The method of disposal of the sewage is by oxidising tanks (Montgomerie Neilson process), with secondary land filtration, the effluent

being available for growing fodder crops. The disposal site is surrounded by Crown lands and unimproved grazing lands, and is at Ironstone Hill, a mile west of Epsom, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Bendigo Post Office.

The Act provides for a sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 6d. in the pound on the annual value in sewered areas, and a special annual rate not exceeding 1s. in the pound in sewered or 6d. in the pound in unsewered areas. The Act further provides for the Sewerage Authority sewerage tenements at the request of the owners, repayment of the cost being made in 40 quarterly instalments. For this purpose a loan of £35,000, at 6 per cent., and a further advance of £35,000 at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. were arranged with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. There are indications that the deferred repayment provision will be largely availed of, the interest chargeable being limited by Act of Parliament to the same rate as the Authority pays. The whole scheme is expected to cost about £300,000.

FIRE BRIGADES BOARDS.

Constitution of Fire Brigades Boards. Connected with the water service of the State generally is the service of water required for fire extinction.

Under the *Fire Brigades Act* 1915 there are constituted a metropolitan fire district, controlled by the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, and nine country fire districts, controlled by the Country Fire Brigades Board. The supervisors are the chief officers of the respective Boards, who are aided by deputies and other assistants.

The arrangements for fire extinction in the metropolis are closely allied to those for the Melbourne water supply, provision for the service being made by the *Fire Brigades Act* 1915.

The Metropolitan Fire District embraces the area included in the various municipalities within a radius of 10 miles from the Elizabeth-street Post Office, as well as certain districts outside of that area. The districts referred to are portions of the shires of Braybrook, Keilor, Broadmeadows, Heidelberg, Doncaster, Nunawading, Mulgrave, and Moorabbin, beyond the 10-mile radius. The Metropolitan Fire District includes the greater portion of the shire of Moorabbin, and extends in a southerly direction as far as Mordialloc (16 miles from Melbourne), that township being included.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board is composed of nine members, of whom three are appointed by the Governor in Council, three by the municipal councils, and three by the fire insurance companies.

**Outfit of the
Metropolitan
Fire Brigade.**

The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board on 30th June 1925, had under its control the following:—Forty stations, 281 members of permanent staff, 69 members of special service staff, 8 members of clerical staff, 45 men engaged in the workshops, 20 employees engaged in the tailoring department, 155 partially paid firemen, 1 steam motor fire engine, 1 steam fire engine, 7 petrol motor fire engines, 3 motor salvage waggons, 18 combination hose carriages and pumps, 4 motor combination appliances, 25 motor hose waggons, 4 motor cycles, 3 motor lorries, 3 special service vans, 1 Chief Officer's motor car, 1 Deputy Chief Officer's motor car, 3 extension ladders and fire escapes, 2 pompier ladders, 10 inspection cars, 102,174 feet of hose, 12 smoke helmets, 1 smoke jacket, and 419 fire alarm circuits having 1,287 street fire alarms, of which 1,270 were with telephones and 17 were fire alarms only. There were also 1130 auxiliary boxes and 29 automatic systems in public and other buildings, 129 direct telephone lines, 62 of which were acting as fire alarms to buildings, 98 watchmen's clock systems, and 100 circuits to sprinkler installations, with 173 sprinkler call-transmitting instruments.

During 1924-25 the cost of maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was £181,252, one-third being contributed by each of the contributing bodies, viz., Government of Victoria, municipalities within the Metropolitan Fire District, and the fire insurance companies carrying on business in that district. The municipalities' contribution was equal to 6036d. in the pound over an area wherein the property was valued at £13,862,427, and that of the insurance companies was equal to £5 7s. 6d. for every £100 of premiums on insured property. The premiums received in the Melbourne Fire District in 1923 amounted to £937,280, and the total of the payments made by the companies in 1924-25 for the maintenance of the fire brigade system was £50,406.

**Country Fire
Brigades
Board.**

The Country Fire Brigades Board consists of nine members. Three are appointed by the Governor in Council, two are elected by the municipal councils of the districts in which there are brigades registered under the Board, two by the fire insurance companies carrying on business in such districts, and two by the registered fire brigades. The board elects one of its members as president each year. The tenure of the Board members is two years. The Board's revenue for the six months ended 30th June, 1924, was £16,907, which was obtained from the following sources:—(a) Government, £5,827; (b) municipalities, £5,182; (c) insurance companies, £5,828; and (d) other sources, £70. The expenditure for the same half year amounted to £16,432. There are 114 municipal councils and 92 insurance companies included in the operation of the Act. The premiums received by the insurance companies in

country districts during the year 1923 amounted to £316,205. The total value of rateable property assessed within the Board's district in 1924 was £2,580,078. All brigades under the control of the Board are volunteer brigades, but in the large centres a few permanent stationkeepers and auxiliaries are employed. There are 142 registered brigades, and the number of registered firemen is 2,740. In many brigades there are, in addition to the registered firemen, a number of "reserve" members.

Powers of the Boards. The general duties of the Fire Brigades Boards are defined to be those "of taking superintending and enforcing all necessary steps for the extinguishment of fires and for the protection of life and property in case of fire, and the general control of all stations and of all fire brigades shall be vested in the Boards for the metropolis and country districts respectively." The Boards may purchase or lease property for fire brigade stations, control the formation of permanent and volunteer fire brigades and schools of instruction, maintain fire alarms, and establish communication, telephonic and other.

Water Supply. The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is bound to keep all its pipes, to which fire plugs are affixed, charged with water, unless prevented by unusual drought or other unavoidable cause, or during necessary repairs, and must allow all persons at all times to take and use such water for extinguishing fires. On 30th June, 1924, the Board had fixed to its 250 miles 14½ chains of leading mains and 1,630 miles 62½ chains of reticulation mains, 5,334 pillar hydrants, 35 Tregear patent hydrants, and 16,465 ball fire plugs (viz., 16,444 Bateman and Moore, of which 3,022 are with spring, and 21 Fowler patent)—a grand total of 21,834. Except in case of accident, repairs, or cleaning, these mains are kept constantly full of water under pressure.

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, under the water supply provisions of its Act of 1915, must, upon the request of any municipal council within its boundaries, fix proper fire plugs in the main and other pipes belonging to the Board, at convenient distances, and at such places as the Board may consider proper and convenient for the supply of water for extinguishing any fire which may break out within its limits. The cost of fixing fire plugs and notice boards, together with the cost of their maintenance, must be defrayed by the municipal council within whose limits the fire plug is fixed. The Board may also fix fire plugs for private owners, provided they pay the cost of installation and maintenance.

Receipts and expenditure. Particulars of receipts and expenditure of both Fire Brigades Boards for the five years ended 30th June, 1924, are as follows :—

**REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF FIRE BRIGADES BOARDS:
RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.**

—	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.*
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>					
Contributions — Govern- ment, Municipal, and Insurance	112,976	137,626	148,139	144,587	148,576
Receipts for Services ...	9,651	10,808	12,300	14,028	16,486
Interest and Sundries ...	4,658	12,059	13,751	9,778	9,881
Total ...	127,285	160,493	174,190	168,393	174,943
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Salaries	74,038	101,392	106,046	103,416	105,749
Fire Expenses	3,349	3,834	4,022	4,205	2,196
Administrative Charges, &c.	17,942	28,844	25,403	29,699	28,433
Plant—Purchase and Re- pairs	9,443	9,653	8,255	9,394	17,383
Interest	9,156	9,595	9,213	7,468	7,746
Repayment of Loans ...	3,814	4,666	12,052	2,959	3,115
Firemen's Accident Fund	...	250	250	...	...
Superannuation Fund ...	...	...	...	4,684	3,900
Miscellaneous	7,808	3,732	11,143	7,737	3,095
Total ...	125,550	161,966	176,384	169,562	171,617
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>					
Purchase of Land and Erection of Buildings, &c.	7,046	23,782	25,205	1,443	1,201

* The figures relating to the Country Fire Brigades Board are for a period of six months to 30th June, 1924.

ACCUMULATION.

**Property left
by deceased
persons.**

The accompanying table shows, in various age groups, the number and value of estates of deceased persons of each sex in connexion with which probate or letters of administration were granted during 1924, also the average amount left by each person whose estate passed through the Probate Office, and by each person dying, and the amount of duty collected on the estates. The resident adults who left property at death in 1924 numbered 5,087, the sex distribution being 3,040 males, or 45 per cent. of male deaths over the age of 21 years, and 2,047 females, or 34 per cent. of adult female deaths. The average value of estates left by males was 63 per cent. more than that of estates left by females. It appears that the average wealth of deceased persons in 1924 reached its maximum in the age group 50 to 60 years in the case of males, and in the age group 70 to 80 in the case of females.

ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS IN AGE GROUPS, 1924.

Age at Death.	Estates.		Value of Estates.					Amount of Duty.
	Total Number.	Percent- age In- testate.	Gross.		Net—after deducting Liabilities.			
			Real.	Personal.	Real and Personal.	Average to each Estate.	Average per Death in Victoria in each Age Group.	
MALES.								
Under 15 years ..	1	100·0	£ ..	£ 50	£ 50	£ 50	0·03	£ ..
15 to 21 " ..	9	100·0	630	2,281	2,742	305	14	66
21 to 30 " ..	106	65·1	63,467	68,104	88,185	832	231	3,387
30 to 40 " ..	197	44·2	116,516	221,234	257,441	1,307	521	11,389
40 to 50 " ..	289	37·7	290,189	304,822	446,037	1,543	657	17,487
50 to 60 " ..	568	30·1	1,015,084	1,559,731	2,208,401	3,888	1,815	147,636
60 to 70 " ..	863	22·7	1,160,067	1,646,267	2,474,853	2,868	1,394	124,737
70 to 80 " ..	567	19·0	880,350	1,063,135	1,785,033	3,148	1,369	96,018
80 to 90 " ..	373	12·3	508,419	792,658	1,208,697	3,240	1,509	64,988
90 years and up- wards ..	77	3·9	121,881	175,126	284,343	3,693	1,634	14,863
Absentees ..	312	20·5	40,220	401,719	426,421	1,367	..	17,791
Total Males	3,362	25·7	4,196,823	6,235,127	9,182,203	2,731	1,036	498,362
FEMALES.								
Under 15 years ..	1	100·0	..	96	96	96	0·06	..
15 to 21 " ..	2	100·0	..	1,101	1,101	550	6	35
21 to 30 " ..	35	68·6	6,007	14,402	16,258	465	40	518
30 to 40 " ..	85	47·1	44,370	73,746	100,123	1,178	192	5,338
40 to 50 " ..	197	43·1	100,259	144,307	197,122	1,001	356	7,595
50 to 60 " ..	352	30·1	252,490	274,245	462,988	1,315	512	18,196
60 to 70 " ..	507	23·9	386,502	550,761	867,160	1,710	694	42,808
70 to 80 " ..	480	14·8	547,268	733,180	1,195,759	2,491	1,031	62,752
80 to 90 " ..	324	8·6	240,324	349,189	554,361	1,711	584	22,995
90 years and up- wards ..	67	6·0	51,164	54,131	102,102	1,524	460	4,308
Absentees ..	128	30·5	17,207	138,943	151,995	1,187	..	6,950
Total Females	2,178	23·9	1,645,591	2,334,101	3,649,065	1,675	478	171,495
Total Males and Females—								
1924	5,540	25·0	5,842,414	8,569,228	12,831,268	2,316	778	669,857
1923	6,283	24·5	6,945,668	10,063,628	15,070,725	2,399	875	794,327
1922	5,445	24·8	5,395,984	8,874,337	12,641,263	2,322	834	689,543
1921	5,769	25·6	5,905,994	8,331,966	12,554,865	2,176	777	632,793
1920	5,837	27·8	5,701,914	10,641,149	14,672,239	2,514	872	908,170

The numbers and values of estates dealt with in each of the last four years, grouped according to value, and distinguishing estates of males from those of females, are as follows :—

NUMBER AND VALUE OF ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS, 1921 TO 1924.

Value.	1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.	
	Number.	Net Value.	Number.	Net Value.	Number.	Net Value.	Number.	Net Value.
MALES.								
Under £100 ..	422	£ 20,588	366	£ 18,323	358	£ 17,647	366	£ 17,900
£100 to £300 ..	625	121,326	599	115,363	641	124,132	579	110,858
£300 to £500 ..	498	198,408	419	163,879	480	189,797	433	169,693
£500 to £1,000 ..	612	449,209	553	403,128	671	483,776	610	448,880
£1,000 to £2,000 ..	498	715,964	446	643,173	569	814,293	473	678,738
£2,000 to £3,000 ..	217	534,027	202	506,503	293	716,143	224	547,546
£3,000 to £4,000 ..	148	509,761	136	470,248	165	576,640	146	507,735
£4,000 to £5,000 ..	106	471,360	117	524,454	123	543,146	96	424,516
£5,000 to £10,000 ..	229	1,589,705	221	1,553,951	259	1,784,848	254	1,766,324
£10,000 to £15,000 ..	95	1,144,823	78	938,856	82	1,000,997	87	1,056,476
£15,000 to £25,000 ..	63	1,174,236	56	1,081,097	64	1,232,761	47	876,290
£25,000 to £50,000 ..	33	1,080,936	41	1,430,126	31	1,063,864	30	957,961
£50,000 to £100,000 ..	17	1,101,279	7	532,879	11	698,590	13	930,242
Over £100,000 ..	2	303,592	5	1,078,019	9	1,549,419	4	689,044
Total Males ..	3,565	9,415,214	3,246	9,459,999	3,756	10,796,053	3,362	9,182,203
FEMALES.								
Under £100 ..	246	12,752	236	12,533	253	13,560	227	11,877
£100 to £300 ..	471	89,622	512	99,227	522	100,946	414	79,085
£300 to £500 ..	371	146,479	332	131,391	383	151,232	327	129,661
£500 to £1,000 ..	416	301,051	413	297,249	499	360,829	425	311,856
£1,000 to £2,000 ..	338	477,434	366	516,881	403	577,137	373	530,795
£2,000 to £3,000 ..	136	336,522	132	320,972	169	415,641	136	331,487
£3,000 to £4,000 ..	77	268,958	46	156,418	98	337,925	89	308,299
£4,000 to £5,000 ..	45	210,149	43	190,250	45	205,602	37	164,683
£5,000 to £10,000 ..	63	435,505	73	478,756	92	644,732	102	693,990
£10,000 to £15,000 ..	23	268,734	22	272,623	26	312,343	31	362,572
£15,000 to £25,000 ..	8	147,144	15	292,152	23	454,480	7	120,857
£25,000 to £50,000 ..	7	261,489	8	297,980	10	375,878	6	181,607
£50,000 to £100,000 ..	3	183,812	..	..	3	218,971	2	162,549
Over £100,000 ..	..	..	1	114,832	1	105,396	2	259,747
Total Females ..	2,204	3,139,651	2,199	3,181,264	2,527	4,274,672	2,178	3,649,065
GRAND TOTAL ..	5,769	12,554,865	5,445	12,641,263	6,283	15,070,725	5,540	12,831,268

The following figures prove that the economic conditions existing in Victoria during the last forty-six years have led to a wide and growing diffusion of wealth amongst the people :—

Period.	Percentage of Adults who died leaving Estates which went through the Probate Office.
	Yearly Average.
1879-83	22·6
1884-88	25·9
1889-93	30·3
1894-98	33·3
1899-1903	36·7
1904-1908	37·5
1909-1913	37·9
1914-1918	38·0
1919-1923	43·3
1924	39·8

ROYAL MINT.

The Melbourne branch of the Royal Mint was established in 1872, the date of opening being the 12th June. The following table shows for the period 1872 to 1920 and for each of the last four years the quantity of gold received at the Mint, where the same was raised, and its coinage value; also the gold coin and bullion issued during the same periods :—

GOLD RECEIVED AND ISSUED AT ROYAL MINT, 1872 TO 1924.

Gold Received.	1872 to 1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Gross Weight.</i>					
Raised in Victoria ... oz.	28,090,753	115,863	115,432	109,823	75,874
„ New Zealand „	3,823,985	...	...	2	18
„ Western Australia „	2,940,981	13	...	210	9,020
„ elsewhere „	4,360,176	31,298	30,462	55,994	23,310
Total ... „	39,215,895	147,174	145,894	166,029	109,222
Coinage Value ... £	153,785,247	525,866	513,722	613,641	369,782
<i>Gold Issued.</i>					
Coin—					
Sovereigns ... No.	140,827,516	240,121	608,306	510,870	278,140
Half-Sovereigns ... „	1,893,559	...	...	...	...
Bullion—Quantity ... oz.	2,899,226	21,614	23,504	27,277	26,028
„ Value ... £	12,048,384	84,162	91,521	106,209	101,347
Total value, Coin and Bullion ... } £	153,786,979	324,283	699,827	617,079	379,487

Since the opening of the Mint 33,784,214 ounces of gold have been received thereat, the coinage value at £3 17s. 10½d. per ounce standard being £155,803,258, thus averaging about £3 18s. 4½d. per ounce gross. Of the total quantity of gold received at the Mint, 28,508,745 ounces were raised in Victoria, 3,824,003 ounces in New Zealand, 2,950,224 ounces in Western Australia, 1,310,350 ounces in Tasmania, and 848,296 ounces in South Australia. The number of deposits received during 1924 was 1,009, of a gross weight of 109,222 ounces. The average composition of these deposits was gold 797, silver 143, and base 60 in every 1,000 parts. The average value of Victorian gold received at the Mint during the year 1924 was £3 17s. 7d. per ounce gross, £3 17s. 5d. being the value of the gold and 2d. the value of the silver contained therein. The output of the Mint since its establishment has consisted of 142,464,953 sovereigns, 1,893,559 half-sovereigns, and 2,997,649 ounces of gold bullion; the total value of coin and bullion being £155,807,655.

The coinages of silver and bronze pence for the requirements of the Commonwealth Treasury were begun on 10th January, 1916, and 6th June, 1919, respectively. In the following table particulars of the issue of silver and bronze coins are given for each of the last five years:—

**COINAGE OF SILVER AND BRONZE AT ROYAL MINT,
1920 TO 1924.**

Denomination.		Number of Pieces Issued to Commonwealth Treasury.				
		1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Silver—</i>						
2s. ..	..	..	1,247,000	2,057,000	1,038,000	870,000
1s. ..	..	520,000	1,122,000	1,644,000	396,000	388,000
6d. ..	..	1,476,000	2,636,000	..	208,000	616,000
3d. ..	..	4,196,000	7,216,000	5,704,000	816,000	1,160,000
Total Silver Pieces..		6,192,000	12,221,000	9,405,000	2,458,000	3,034,000
Value .. £		115,350	336,900	359,200	139,000	136,300
<i>Bronze—</i>						
1d. ..	..	7,020,000	7,291,200	7,646,400	5,289,600	1,339,200
½d. ..	..	..	..	..	..	681,600
Total Bronze Pieces		7,020,000	7,291,200	7,646,400	5,289,600	2,020,800
Value .. £		29,250	30,380	31,860	22,040	7,000

The next table shows the quantity and value of silver extracted from gold at the Mint and the quantities of silver and gold issued for industrial purposes in each of the last five years :—

**ROYAL MINT—EXTRACTIONS OF SILVER AND ISSUE OF
SILVER AND GOLD FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES,
1920 TO 1924.**

Year.	Silver extracted from Gold at Mint.		Silver extracted from Victorian Gold at Mint.		Silver issued by Mint to Jewellers, &c.	Gold issued by Mint to Jewellers, &c.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
	Fine oz.	£	Fine oz.	£	Fine oz.	Standard oz.
1920	13,963	3,840	6,231	1,714	32,188	69,376
1921	12,843	2,127	5,204	862	28,410	21,614
1922	16,807	2,601	6,978	1,080	24,373	23,504
1923	12,409	1,897	6,304	963	19,174	27,276
1924	14,479	2,216	4,216	645	71,078	26,005

The revenue derived from Mint Charges, &c. from the opening of the Mint to 31st December, 1924, is shown in the following statement :—

REVENUE DERIVED FROM MINT CHARGES, 1872 TO 1924.

Period.	Revenue.		
	From Mint Charges on Gold.	From Sale of Silver and Other Sources.	Total Revenue.
	£	£	£
1872-1880	30,055	26,082	56,137
1880-1890	48,152	61,114	109,266
1890-1900	85,961	84,553	170,514
1900-1910	93,703	75,374	169,077
1910-1920	55,288	130,981	186,269
1920	2,370	23,468	25,838
1921	1,719	33,162	34,881
1922	1,577	32,187	33,764
1923	1,500	21,885	23,385
1924	1,319	14,170	15,489
Total	321,644	502,976	824,620

BANKING.

Including the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, there were on 31st December, 1924, sixteen institutions, having 880 branches or agencies, which were engaged in the ordinary business of banking in Victoria. These are referred to in the succeeding tables as cheque-paying banks.

**Victorian
banking.**

The subjoined statement shows the assets and liabilities *within Victoria* of all the banks (including the figures of the Commonwealth Bank) and the capital and profits of the ordinary banks, i.e., the banks other than the Commonwealth Bank, at 31st December in each of the years 1920 to 1924. The particulars of the Commonwealth Bank include the balances of the Savings Bank department of that institution, as it issues one general statement only of assets and liabilities.

VICTORIAN BANKING RETURNS, 1920 TO 1924.
(Cheque-paying Banks only).

—	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
LIABILITIES WITHIN VICTORIA.	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits bearing interest ¹	47,565,334	48,729,908	54,307,996	61,096,159	58,570,331
Deposits not bearing interest	38,520,089	33,519,521	35,525,396	34,992,954	34,454,330
Notes in circulation	92,719	88,665	88,268	87,524	87,137
Other	1,871,608	1,402,928	1,446,498	1,416,513	1,671,938
Total ..	88,049,750	83,741,022	91,368,158	97,593,150	94,783,736
ASSETS WITHIN VICTORIA.					
Coin, Bullion, &c. ..	5,214,505	5,282,862	5,579,434	5,675,455	5,740,421
Australian Notes ..	9,752,051	11,646,665	9,384,413	8,841,107	10,381,724
Debts due to Banks ²	69,700,739	62,235,105	66,418,565	73,580,640	73,224,396
Property	1,513,551	1,512,303	1,673,831	1,933,391	2,176,841
Other	2,356,047	3,356,830	2,857,929	6,546,797	2,606,054
Total ..	88,536,893	84,033,765	85,914,172	96,577,390	94,129,436
CAPITAL AND PROFITS.					
Capital stock paid up	35,915,745	36,001,087	37,786,681	40,256,301	42,179,247
Reserved Profits (ex Dividend) ..	18,337,759	19,259,457	21,286,274	23,006,251	25,330,857
Dividend for year—Amount ..	3,098,534	3,654,145	3,945,521	4,059,322	4,381,368
Rate per cent. on paid-up capital..	8·63	10·15	10·44	10·61	10·92

¹ Including perpetual inscribed stocks, which in 1924 amounted to £1,034,540, also Commonwealth Savings Bank deposits. — ² Including notes, bills of exchange, municipal securities, and all stock and funded debts of every description, but excluding notes, bills, and balances due to the banks from other banks.

The Victorian liabilities of the banks to the general public (excluding shareholders), in 1924, were less by £2,809,414 than the corresponding liabilities in 1923. During the period 1920–24 the

Victorian assets increased by £5,592,543. There have been considerable fluctuations in recent years in the relation of assets to liabilities, the assets having been in excess of the liabilities in 1920 and 1921, and the liabilities having exceeded the assets in 1922, 1923, and 1924. It must be borne in mind that the figures given above represent only the assets and liabilities *within* the State.

Shareholders' capital, which represents the capital of the shareholders without as well as within Victoria, amounted to 42 millions on 31st December, 1924. The reserves at the end of 1924 exceeded those of the previous year by £2,324,606 and amounted to 60 per cent. of the paid-up capital.

The principal item in each case of the liabilities and assets of all the banks is shown for a series of years in the next statement.

DEPOSITS IN AND ADVANCES BY CHEQUE-PAYING BANKS, 1915 TO 1924.

(Average of the last quarter of each year.)

Year.	Deposits.			Advances (including Government and Municipal Securities).	Excess of Deposits over Advances.
	Bearing Interest.	Not bearing Interest.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£
1915	32,859,239	21,180,863	54,040,102	41,245,334	12,794,768
1916	33,639,033	25,563,798	59,202,831	45,141,466	14,061,365
1917	35,665,492	28,377,165	64,042,657	40,993,959	23,048,698
1918	40,107,372	36,283,131	76,390,503	54,102,886	22,287,617
1919	41,533,941	36,984,246	78,518,187	50,983,836	27,534,351
1920	47,565,334	38,520,089	86,085,423	69,700,739	16,384,684
1921	48,729,908	33,519,521	82,249,429	62,235,105	20,014,324
1922	54,307,996	35,525,396	89,833,392	66,418,565	23,414,827
1923	61,096,159	34,992,954	96,089,113	73,580,640	22,508,473
1924	58,570,331	34,454,330	93,024,661	73,224,396	19,800,265

The Victorian advances of the ordinary banks showed an increase of £22,473,288 during the past five years, and those of the Commonwealth Bank a decrease of £232,728. These advances include Government and municipal securities. As compared with five years ago, deposits in the ordinary banks have increased by £16,031,005, and those in the Commonwealth Bank (excluding Savings Bank deposits) have decreased by £2,618,721. Deposits in the Commonwealth Savings Bank showed an increase of £1,094,190 during the period mentioned.

**Rates of
exchange.**

The average rates of exchange for bank bills in 1924 and in the first year of each of the two preceding five-year periods are given below. The bills drawn on London are payable at 60 days' sight, and those drawn on Australian States and New Zealand on demand.

RATES OF EXCHANGE, 1914, 1919, AND 1924.

Places on which Bills were Drawn.	Average Rates of Exchange.		
	1914.	1919.	1924.
London	5s. to 10s. per cent. discount	7s. 6d. per cent. discount	44s. 8d. to 65s. per cent. discount
New South Wales	3s. 9d. to 5s. per cent. premium	2s. 6d. to 5s. per cent. premium	3s. 9d. to 5s. per cent. premium
Queensland ...	5s. to 10s. per cent. premium	5s. to 10s. per cent. premium	5s. to 10s. per cent. premium
South Australia ...	3s. 9d. to 5s. per cent. premium	2s. 6d. to 5s. per cent. premium	3s. 9d. to 5s. per cent. premium
Western Australia	8s. 9d. to 10s. per cent. premium	7s. 6d. to 10s. per cent. premium	7s. 6d. to 10s. per cent. premium
Tasmania ...	3s. 9d. to 5s. per cent. premium	2s. 6d. to 5s. per cent. premium	3s. 9d. to 5s. per cent. premium
New Zealand ...	7s. 6d. to 10s. per cent. premium	5s. to 10s. per cent. premium	Par to 5s. per cent. premium

**Rates of
discount.**

The average rates of discount on local bills in the same years are given in the next statement. It will be seen that there are only slight differences in the rates for the three years.

RATES OF DISCOUNT ON LOCAL BILLS, 1914, 1919, AND 1924.

Currency of Bills.	Average Rates of Discount per annum.		
	1914.	1919.	1924.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Under 65 days	5 to 6½	5 to 6½	6 to 7
65 to 95 ,,	5 to 6½	5 to 7	6 to 7
95 to 125 ,,	5½ to 7	5½ to 7	6 to 7
Over 125 ,,	6 to 7	5½ to 7	6 to 7

Rates of
Interest.

The succeeding statement shows the range for ten years of the average rates of interest per annum paid by the ordinary banks to depositors for twelve months :—

Year.					Average rates of Interest per annum allowed to depositors for 12 months.
					Per cent.
1915	...	...	...	...	3½ to 4
1916	...	...	...	...	3½ to 4
1917	...	...	...	...	4
1918	...	...	...	...	4
1919	...	...	...	...	4 to 4½
1920	...	...	...	...	4½ to 4½
1921	...	...	...	...	4½
1922	...	...	...	...	4½
1923	...	...	...	...	4½
1924	...	...	...	...	4½

Analysis of
bank returns.

An analysis of the banks' liabilities and assets *within* the State for the years 1914, 1919, and 1924 gives the following results :—

For every £100 of assets the		£99·66 in	...	...	1914
liabilities were		£112·87 „	...	...	1919
		£100·69 „	...	...	1924
Coin and bullion* formed		59·35 per cent. of the liabilities			
		at call in†	...	...	1914
		43·74 „	„	„	1919
		46·67 „	„	„	1924
Of the moneys deposited		64·19 per cent. bore interest in 1914			
		52·90 „	„	„	1919
		62·96 „	„	„	1924

* Including Australian notes. † Deposits not bearing interest and bank notes in circulation.

The foregoing statements relate to all banks in Victoria including the Commonwealth Bank. The assets and liabilities of that bank *within Victoria* at 31st December in each of the last five years were as follows:—

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS OF THE COMMONWEALTH BANK
IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA, 1920 TO 1924.

	December Quarter—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£
Liabilities—					
Bills in circulation..	57,509	39,403	59,871	108,955	65,814
Balances due to other banks	349,352	..	27,840	23,705	17,949
Deposits not bearing interest ..	3,613,752	3,750,527	4,423,025	3,322,797	3,415,416
Deposits bearing interest	1,931,581	1,918,261	2,173,051	5,169,811	1,623,930
Savings Bank deposits	4,873,313	5,073,967	5,427,536	5,575,273	5,337,318
Total ..	10,825,507	10,782,158	12,111,323	14,200,541	10,460,427
Assets—					
Coin and bullion ..	437,980	440,079	434,595	399,187	312,771
Australian notes ..	644,104	2,513,462	773,691	1,150,761	2,280,141
Government and Municipal securities	3,611,045	3,283,117	3,336,756	3,602,415	3,971,177
Landed property ..	82,192	91,636	162,446	273,160	421,671
Notes and bills of other banks ..	163,449	1,177,462	310,795	163,445	170,515
Balances due from other banks ..	674,898	639,632	622,801	1,574,530	560,327
Advances ..	2,375,769	1,772,250	2,726,129	2,777,424	1,601,540
Total ..	7,989,437	9,917,638	8,367,213	9,940,922	9,318,142

Melbourne
Clearing
House.

The following table contains particulars in regard to the clearances through the Melbourne Clearing House in each of the last ten years :—

MELBOURNE CLEARING HOUSE TRANSACTIONS,
1915 TO 1924.

Year.	Clearances.		Average Weekly Clearances.
	By exchange of Cheques, Bills, &c.	By payments in Australian Notes, balances, &c.	
	£	£	£
1915 ..	299,295,000	37,524,000	5,755,700
1916 ..	357,788,000	48,441,000	6,880,500
1917 ..	377,301,000	56,120,000	7,255,800
1918 ..	493,769,000	97,305,000	9,548,400
1919 ..	544,211,000	98,466,000	10,465,600
1920 ..	725,006,000	122,290,000	13,942,400
1921 ..	609,336,000	105,682,000	11,718,000
1922 ..	623,789,000	92,073,000	11,995,000
1923 ..	697,051,000	105,197,000	13,405,000
1924 ..	734,081,000	106,642,000	14,117,000

In this table the two sides of the clearance are considered as one transaction. The amount passed through the Melbourne Clearing House during 1924 was larger than in any other year and exceeded the total for 1923 by £37,030,000.

State Savings
Bank of
Victoria.

The subjoined table shows the number of depositors and the amount remaining on deposit in the State Savings Bank at various dates since the year 1875. Particulars of depositors and deposits in the Savings Bank Deposit Stock, and

in the Penny Bank Department of the State Savings Bank are excluded.

STATE SAVINGS BANK : DEPOSITORS AND DEPOSITS, 1875 TO 1924.

(Exclusive of Penny Bank Accounts and Savings Bank Deposit Stock.)

On 30th June—	Number of Depositors.		Amount remaining on Deposit.	
	Total.	Per 1,000 of Population.	Total.	Average per Depositor.
1875	65,837	81	£ 1,469,849	£ s. d. 22 6 6
1880	92,115	108	1,661,409	18 0 9
1885	170,014	174	3,337,018	19 12 7
1890	281,509	252	5,262,105	18 13 10
1895	338,480	286	7,316,129	21 12 3
1900	375,070	314	9,110,793	24 5 10
1905	447,382	369	10,896,741	24 7 2
1910	560,515	429	15,417,887	27 10 2
1915	721,936	506	24,874,811	34 9 1
1920	886,344	589	37,232,543	42 0 2
1921	928,009	604	42,956,461	46 5 9
1922	970,431	619	45,968,222	47 7 5
1923	1,015,346	632	49,540,039	48 15 10
1924	1,059,008	646	51,497,200	48 12 7

On 30th June, 1924, sixty-five persons out of every hundred in the State (including children under 15 years of age who represent 30 per cent. of the population) were depositors with an average balance of £48 12s. 7d. The figures given in the above table include each year a large number of inoperative accounts, that is to say, of small sums under £1 upon which the depositors had ceased to operate. On 30th June, 1924, these inoperative accounts numbered 225,070; omitting these, the balance of 833,938 accounts averaged

£61 14s. 2d. each, as compared with an average of £62 9s. 5d. in the previous year.

The following statement shows the transactions in connexion with the ordinary accounts for each of the last five years :—

SAVINGS BANK TRANSACTIONS, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Year ended 30th June—	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Number of Accounts.			Amount at credit of Depositors.*
			Opened.	Closed.	Remaining open at end of period.	
	£	£				£
1920	38,920,981	36,971,307	155,675	119,817	886,344	37,232,543
1921	43,747,702	39,462,795	157,805	116,140	928,009	42,956,461
1922	40,780,185	39,377,122	153,043	110,621	970,431	45,968,222
1923	44,729,496	42,890,382	161,286	116,371	1,015,346	49,540,039
1924	50,831,162	50,700,221	171,216	127,554	1,059,008	51,497,200

* Excluding Penny Bank and Deposit Stock Accounts.

The State Savings Bank on 30th June, 1924, had 1,120,555 depositors with £52,358,213 to their credit, of whom 61,547 depositors in the Penny Bank Department with £57,487 to their credit have been excluded from the preceding table, a sum of £803,526 in the Saving Bank Deposit Stock account being also excluded. From 1st February, 1923, to 31st March, 1924, the rate of interest allowed to depositors in this bank was 4 per cent. on all sums from £1 to £500, and 3 per cent. on any excess over £500 up to £750. From 1st April, 1924, interest has been allowed on the excess over £500 up to £1,000 at the rate of 3½ per cent. The last mentioned sum is the maximum which is received as an ordinary deposit. Depositors are permitted, however, to place an additional sum, not exceeding £1,000, in Deposit Stock account, which is a form of fixed deposit withdrawable at short notice—one week for every £10 up to £40, one month for sums of from £50 to £100, and longer periods for larger amounts, with a maximum of six months for sums of from £910 to £1,000. Interest is allowed on this stock at the same rate as on ordinary deposits, viz.:—4 per cent. Of the amount (£51,497,200) on ordinary current account deposit in the State Bank on 30th June, 1924, about 21 per cent. belonged to depositors with accounts up to £100 each, 34 per cent. to those with accounts over £100 and up to £300, 23 per cent. to those with accounts over £300 and up to £500, and 22 per cent. to those with accounts exceeding £500.

The next statement shows the assets and liabilities of the State Savings Bank as at 30th June, 1924, the former indicating the manner in which deposits are invested or held :—

STATE SAVINGS BANK, ASSETS AND LIABILITIES,
30TH JUNE, 1924.

<i>Assets.</i>				£
Government Debentures, Stock and Bonds	..	..	..	24,790,467
Fixed Deposits with eight Banks	..	..	..	8,757,000
Crédit Foncier Debentures	..	..	..	8,829,977
Municipal Debentures	..	..	..	2,125,204
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Stock and Debentures				2,062,439
Commonwealth Inscribed Stock, Treasury Bonds, War Savings Certificates, etc.	..	..	..	2,522,630
English, Scottish and Australian Bank Stock	..	..	..	36,454
Mortgage Securities	..	..	..	1,205,065
Accrued Interest, &c., on Investments	..	..	..	718,560
Bank premises	..	..	..	620,000
Current Accounts with Bankers, Deposits at short notice	..	..	..	1,230,791
Cash at Head Office, Branches, Agencies, and in transit	..	..	..	878,660
Other Assets	..	..	..	36,110
Total	..	..	..	<u>£53,813,357</u>
<i>Liabilities.</i>				
Depositors' balances, with Interest to date	..	..	..	52,358,213
Other liabilities	..	..	..	218,948
Surplus Funds allotted as follows :—			£	
Reserve Fund	..	..	..	1,000,000
Fidelity Guarantee Fund	..	..	..	9,910
Profit and Loss Account	..	..	..	226,286
Total Surplus Funds	..	..	..	<u>1,236,196</u>
Total	..	..	..	<u>53,813,357</u>

The amount of the funds held in a liquid state at 30th June, 1924, was £11,025,185, being £2,145,561 in cash and money at call or short notice and £8,879,624 in Bank deposit receipts; the latter are fixed for two years, but are so arranged that an average amount of about £370,000 of the receipts matures each month. The liquid assets under this arrangement earn a considerable amount of income, without which the interest paid to depositors could not be maintained at the present rate.

State Savings
Bank—
Advances
department.

The "Crédit Foncier" or advances department of the State Savings Bank was established by Act of Parliament in 1896 for the purpose of making advances on farm properties in sums ranging from £50 to £2,000, and in 1910, under the authority of Act No. 2280, the system was extended to house and shop securities, permission being given to make advances of from £50 to £1,000. Funds for the purpose were obtained at the initiation of the system by the sale of mortgage bonds redeemable by half-yearly ballots; but since 1901 by the sale of debentures in denominations of £100 and over, redeemable at fixed dates not more than twenty years from date of issue. The *Savings Banks Act* 1915 gives power to substitute stock for debentures on the application of any debenture-holder or any person offering to purchase debentures. The balance of debentures and stock current on 30th June, 1924, was £13,903,460. Of this amount, £5,059,860 is held by the public, and the balance by the Commissioners themselves because of money having been invested by them out of Savings Bank funds. The sum advanced during the year 1923-24 was £4,053,197, making with the amounts previously advanced a total of £21,605,962, of which £7,795,959 had been repaid by 30th June, 1924; leaving outstanding on that date an amount of £13,810,003, representing 4,239 loans to farmers for £2,690,049, which thus averaged £635; 22,541 loans to owners of houses or shops for a total of £9,591,073, or an average per borrower of £426; and 2,718 advances under the Housing Act for £1,523,881. Under the provisions of Act No. 3007 the Commissioners were empowered to extend the "Crédit Foncier" loan facilities granted by the *Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act* 1917. In the first mentioned Act provision is made for advances to soldiers and sailors and their dependants, also to Red Cross and transport workers, at a lower rate of interest and on longer terms than are allowed to others, to assist them to acquire farms or to purchase or erect dwellings. The total amount advanced on these conditions to 30th June, 1924, was £3,927,198 (including £99,008 transferred from ordinary loans). Of this sum £691,046 had been repaid, leaving outstanding at that date £3,236,152, which is included in the total of £13,810,003 shown above.

The *Housing and Reclamation Act* 1920 authorizes the Commissioners of the Savings Bank to purchase and build houses for persons who have an income of not more than £400 per annum, and who do not own a house. Applicants are required to pay a deposit of 10 per cent. of the total cost of house and land (which is limited to £850 if the house is of wood, and to £950 if of brick, stone, or concrete). The rate of repayment is now $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, including interest at $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., this amount repaying the loan in $23\frac{1}{2}$ years. The funds for this branch of the Bank's operations are raised by the issue of Crédit Foncier debentures, guaranteed by the Government of Victoria. The amount expended and remaining at debit of borrowers and purchasers at 30th June, 1924, was £1,528,881.

This represented £1,333,502—the balance owing on 2,106 houses erected or purchased; and £195,379—the expenditure on 612 houses in course of erection and sites for dwellings. The purchase of dwellings ceased from 31st July, 1921, since which date the policy of the Bank has been to build and not to purchase houses, except in certain country towns where it would be considered inadvisable to build new houses.

The total transactions in the “Crédit Foncier” department, under the three sections thereof, are shown below :—

STATE SAVINGS BANK—TRANSACTIONS IN ADVANCES DEPARTMENT.

	At 30th June, 1923.	During 1923-24.	At 30th June, 1924.
Stock and debentures issued .. £	21,008,600	11,000,000	32,008,600
„ „ redeemed .. £	10,157,770	7,947,370	18,105,140
„ „ outstanding .. £	10,850,830	..	13,903,460
<i>Pastoral or Agricultural Property.</i>			
Applications received .. No.	21,983	982	22,965
„ „ amount .. £	12,570,395	887,985	13,458,380
Applications granted .. No.	13,465	553	14,018*
„ „ amount .. £	7,107,565	459,990	7,567,555*
Amount advanced .. £	5,671,325	377,570	6,048,895
„ repaid .. £	3,172,800	186,046	3,358,846
„ outstanding .. £	2,498,525	..	2,690,049
<i>House or Shop Property.</i>			
Applications received .. No.	40,088	6,624	46,712
„ „ amount .. £	16,198,410	3,552,660	19,751,070
Applications granted .. No.	32,745	6,223	38,968†
„ „ amount .. £	12,635,437	3,203,255	15,838,692†
Amount advanced .. £	10,888,727	3,062,909	13,951,636
„ repaid .. £	3,564,506	796,057	4,360,563
„ outstanding .. £	7,324,221	..	9,591,073
<i>Housing and Reclamation Act.</i>			
Applications received .. No.	3,763	958	4,721
„ granted .. No.	2,230	671	2,901
Amount advanced .. £	992,713	612,718	1,605,431
„ repaid .. £	30,615	45,935	76,550
„ outstanding .. £	962,098	..	1,528,881

* Including £916,220 offered to, but not accepted by 1,545 applicants.

† Including £982,157 offered to, but not accepted by 2,672 applicants.

The net profit for the year in the advances department was £32,970 on working account, and £11,559 on reserve fund investments, making a total profit of £44,529. This amount will be transferred to reserve fund, and will make the total of that fund £313,923, which is held, in accordance with Act No. 2729, for the purpose of meeting any loss or deficiency that may occur in the department.

As a measure of the safety with which this department has been conducted, it may be mentioned that the instalments of principal in arrear amounted on 30th June, 1924, to £808, and the interest in arrear to £1,644.

The Savings Bank department of the Commonwealth Savings Bank commenced business on 15th July, 1912. The following table shows the business transacted in Victoria during each of the last five years :—

COMMONWEALTH SAVINGS BANK IN VICTORIA, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Year ended 30th June—	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Number of Accounts.			Amount at credit of Depositors.
			Opened.	Closed.	Remaining open at end of period.	
	£	£				£
1920 ..	6,571,812	6,431,865	38,591	27,046	115,584	4,572,636
1921 ..	7,276,259	6,739,330	35,771	23,966	127,389	5,305,597
1922 ..	5,795,036	5,995,362	24,805	18,180	134,014	5,404,114
1923 ..	6,227,476	6,207,762	23,671	16,694	140,991	5,741,782
1924 ..	6,143,773	6,544,235	24,566	17,483	148,074	5,669,977

PRICES OF VICTORIAN STOCK.

The highest and lowest London prices of Victorian representative stocks are shown for each of the last five years in the following statement :—

QUOTATIONS OF VICTORIAN STOCK IN LONDON.

Year.	3 Per Cents. (1929-49.)		3½ Per Cents. (1929-49.)		4 Per Cents. (1940-60.)		5½ Per Cents. (1924-34.)		5½ Per Cents. (1930-40.)	
	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1920 ..	60½	54	68	58½	78½	66½	100½	92½	..	..
1921 ..	58	54	64½	61	73½	67½	95½	91	..	..
1922 ..	73	57½	79	64½	88	74½	104	94	105½	99½
1923 ..	76	69½	81½	76½	92	85½	103	99½	104	101½
1924 ..	74½	70½	80½	77	89½	84	102½	99½	104	101

The annual interest return to investors in the above Victorian stocks, based on the mean between the highest and lowest quotations during the year, is shown hereunder. Allowance is made for an average of

three months' accrued interest, which is deducted from the market price before the computation is made, and the gain by redemption at par at maturity is taken into account.

INVESTORS' ANNUAL INTEREST RETURN FROM VICTORIAN STOCKS.

Year.	3 Per Cents. (1929-49.)	3½ Per Cents. (1929-49.)	4 Per Cents. (1940-60.)	5½ Per Cents. (1924-34.)	5½ Per Cents. (1930-40.)
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1920	6 5 5	6 7 2	5 17 1	6 0 2	..
1921	6 9 8	6 8 10	6 1 4	6 8 9	..
1922	5 11 2	5 12 2	5 4 1	5 15 7	5 8 0
1923	4 18 4	5 0 4	4 14 0	5 9 10	5 7 9
1924	5 0 2	5 1 9	4 17 0	5 10 0	5 7 10

NOTE.—The latest date of redemption in each case was adopted in the calculation.

The amount of Victorian Government stock and debentures under certain loans repayable in Melbourne, which were outstanding on 30th June, the price in January, and the annual return to the investor per cent. for each year since 1920 are shown in the statement which follows—

PRICES OF STOCK AND DEBENTURES IN MELBOURNE, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	Amount Outstanding on 30th June.	Price in January.	Annual Return to Investor per cent.
	£	£	£ s. d.
3 PER CENT. STOCK, DUE 1917 OR AT ANY TIME THEREAFTER.			
1921	2,930,869	60	5 0 0
1922	2,827,736	57	5 5 3
1923	2,804,630	60-63	4 17 7
1924	2,792,723	57½-59	5 3 0
1925 .. ..	..	59½	5 0 10
3 PER CENT. DEBENTURES, DUE 1921-30.			
1921	972,650	72	7 6 0
1922	972,650	74½	7 5 2
1923	972,650	79	6 11 11
1924	972,650	87½-89	5 3 0
1925 .. ..	..	87	6 2 0

The prices quoted in the above table do not include an allowance for accrued interest, the practice on the Melbourne Stock Exchange

differing from that on the London Exchange, where accrued interest is included in prices quoted. The 3 per cent. stock has been regarded as interminable, as the Government has the option of redeeming it at any time after giving twelve months' notice. In the case of the 3 per cent. debentures it has been assumed that redemption will be made at the latest optional date, viz., 1930.

INSURANCE.

There were thirty-one companies transacting life assurance business in Victoria during 1924. Eight of these companies have their head offices in Victoria, fourteen in New South Wales, one in Queensland, one in New Zealand, two in America, and five in the United Kingdom. The following table shows the number and amount of policies in force in Victoria with companies whose head offices are within, and with those whose head offices are outside Victoria, for the years 1915 to 1924:—

LIFE POLICIES IN FORCE IN VICTORIA, 1915 TO 1924.

Year.	Companies with Head Offices in—						Total.
	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	New Zealand.	United Kingdom.	America.	
	NUMBER.						
1915	142,758	229,534	..	4,296	609	3,909	381,106
1916	153,209	239,006	..	5,089	574	3,713	401,591
1917	164,638	250,982	..	5,803	552	3,506	425,481
1918	178,198	265,044	..	6,712	516	3,254	453,724
1919	192,595	281,936	..	6,959	435	3,040	484,965
1920	210,200	303,326	..	7,767	435	2,792	524,520
1921	225,821	325,947	..	7,562	427	2,575	562,332
1922	247,998	348,809	37	8,249	427	2,320	607,840
1923	266,893	371,945	452	9,189	402	1,551	650,432
1924	287,587	390,213	519	9,575	390	1,427	689,711
	AMOUNT.						
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1915	12,138,479	30,482,130	..	120,648	282,693	1,378,139	44,402,089
1916	12,955,683	31,468,506	..	140,916	267,423	1,313,045	46,145,573
1917	13,941,629	32,776,565	..	163,126	259,157	1,248,869	48,389,346
1918	15,442,555	34,498,021	..	205,224	241,572	1,176,262	51,563,634
1919	17,318,071	36,827,095	..	219,548	171,226	1,120,676	55,656,616
1920	19,736,511	40,207,515	..	235,805	155,085	1,070,989	61,405,905
1921	20,993,483	43,688,946	..	257,046	148,966	1,014,189	66,102,630
1922	23,090,011	47,839,132	8,681	271,705	146,122	991,571	72,347,222
1923	25,712,908	51,571,604	136,914	305,591	134,743	828,859	78,690,619
1924	28,046,381	54,752,084	189,212	329,460	136,441	820,142	84,273,720

The figures in the preceding table relate to simple life assurance, endowment assurance, and pure endowment policies, in both the ordinary and industrial classes.

In addition to the 31 companies included in the above table there is one which is registered as a life assurance company with its head office in Victoria but has not transacted ordinary life assurance business. It contracts for medical, sick and funeral benefits, and its premium income for the year ended 31st December, 1924, was £13,321.

Of the total amount assured at the end of 1924, viz., £84,273,720, 98·87 per cent. was in Australasian, ·16 per cent. in British, and ·97 per cent. in American offices. The corresponding percentages at the end of 1914 were 95·86, ·69, and 3·45.

The business transacted by the different offices comprises many varieties of assurance, but these may be grouped into three large classes—(1) simple assurance payable only at death; (2) endowment assurance, payable at the end of a specified term or at previous death; (3) endowments payable only should a person named survive a specified term. An endeavour has been made to obtain direct from each office the business under each of these classes; but in the case of five of the offices the separation between simple assurance and endowment assurance cannot be effected.

Industrial Assurance policies are usually for small amounts, and the premiums are collected at weekly or fortnightly intervals by agents of the insurance company who call at the homes of the assured. Many of these policies are on the lives of children. The *Commonwealth Life Assurance Companies Act 1905* places a limitation on the amount which may be assured on the life of a child under the age of ten years, the amount varying from £5 in the first to £45 in the tenth year.

The next table contains particulars of life assurance policies in force in the Ordinary and Industrial departments of companies in each of the last five years:—

LIFE ASSURANCE POLICIES IN FORCE, 1920 TO 1924.

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Ordinary Business.</i>					
Number of Policies—					
Assurance	225,136	234,326	246,161	257,410	263,044
Endowment Assurance	13,278	12,915	13,342	13,806	14,848
Pure Endowment					
Total	238,414	247,241	259,503	271,216	277,892
Amount Assured—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	51,714,473	54,814,045	59,231,002	63,769,366	67,329,725
Endowment Assurance	1,572,427	1,529,844	1,586,356	1,689,842	1,864,373
Pure Endowment					
Total	53,286,900	56,343,889*	60,817,358	65,459,208	69,194,098
Bonus Additions—*					£
Assurance		(not available)			9,828,131
Endowment Assurance					42,952
Pure Endowment					
Total					9,871,083
Annual Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	1,795,827	1,892,059	2,039,230	2,196,554	2,327,265
Endowment Assurance	63,763	60,704	63,320	67,884	75,323
Pure Endowment					
Total	1,859,590	1,952,763	2,102,550	2,264,438	2,402,588
<i>Industrial Business.</i>					
Number of Policies—					
Assurance	54,032	54,084	54,658	54,165	53,360
Endowment Assurance	216,458	243,958	273,890	303,586	334,745
Pure Endowment	15,616	17,049	19,789	21,465	23,714
Total	286,106	315,091	348,337	379,216	411,819
Amount Assured—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	1,068,777	1,104,292	1,145,328	1,162,881	1,132,587
Endowment Assurance	6,677,990	8,181,188	9,726,499	11,287,221	13,038,890
Pure Endowment	372,238	473,261	658,037	781,309	908,145
Total	8,119,005	9,758,741	11,529,864	13,231,411	15,079,622
Bonus Additions—					£
Assurance		(not available)			32,967
Endowment Assurance					80,846
Pure Endowment					426
Total					114,239
Annual Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	57,846	59,645	62,365	63,197	62,879
Endowment Assurance	444,651	529,972	621,432	707,988	815,300
Pure Endowment	26,122	31,949	42,209	49,367	58,204
Total	528,619	621,566	726,006	820,552	936,383

* Excluding one small company which has been unable to supply the figures.

There has been an increase of 6,676 ordinary and 32,603 industrial policies since 1923, the increase in the total sum assured by the ordinary policies being £3,734,890 and in that by the industrial policies £1,848,211.

The average amount of policy in the former category for 1924 was £249, and—calculated from the returns of those societies which distinguish between simple assurance and endowment assurance—the average amount of the simple assurance policy in the ordinary branch was £431, and that of the endowment assurance policy £177, the total amounts of the policies in the two forms of assurance being £24,511,380 for simple assurance, and £25,862,771 for endowment assurance. The amount secured under pure endowment policies was £1,864,373, or an average of £126 under each policy. In the industrial branch of the business the average amount of policy was £36·6, the average amounts in the three classes being :—simple assurance, £21·2; endowment assurance, £39·0; and pure endowment, £38·3. The total amounts assured in the three classes were £1,132,587, £13,038,890, and £908,145 respectively. Taking these figures in conjunction with those relating to the ordinary business (with the restriction before mentioned) a preference in favour of endowment assurance is shown. A better test of popularity is furnished by the number of policies in the respective classes. In the ordinary branch of the business of the companies where the distinction is made there were 56,906 simple assurance, and 145,908 endowment assurance policies, and, in the industrial branch, 53,360 and 334,745 policies respectively. The popularity of the endowment assurance policy has been evidenced by the figures for many years past.

The following statement shows for each of the last ten years the average amount of policy held in the Ordinary and Industrial branches of the business respectively, also the amount assured and the premium payable per head of population in both branches combined :—

**AVERAGE AMOUNTS OF ORDINARY AND INDUSTRIAL
POLICIES, AND BUSINESS PER HEAD OF POPULATION,
1915 TO 1924.**

Year.	Average Amount of Policy.		Ordinary and Industrial Business per head of Population.	
	Ordinary Branch.	Industrial Branch.	Amount Assured.	Annual Premium Payable.
	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1915	209	21·8	31 3 4.	1 3 2.
1916	210	22·9	32 17 0	1 5 0
1917	211	23·2	34 2 10	1 6 5
1918	215	24·4	35 17 5	1 7 7
1919	220	26·1	37 0 6	1 8 7
1920	223	28·4	40 3 8	1 11 3
1921	228	30·9	42 12 5	1 13 2
1922	234	33·1	45 9 9	1 15 7
1923	241	34·9	48 8 3	1 18 0
1924	249	36·6	50 17 2	2 0 4

**Annuity
policies.**

The following are the number and amount of annuity policies which were in force in Victoria at the end of each of the last ten years, a distinction being made between those in force in companies whose head offices are inside, and those in companies whose head offices are outside Victoria :—

**ANNUITY POLICIES IN FORCE IN VICTORIA,
1915 TO 1924.**

Year.	Head Offices in Victoria.		Head Offices outside Victoria.		Total.	
	Number.	Amount per Annum.	Number.	Amount per Annum.	Number.	Amount per Annum.
		£		£		£
1915 ..	188	11,208	429	20,195	617	31,403
1916 ..	192	11,541	419	19,836	611	31,377
1917 ..	194	11,598	437	20,427	631	32,025
1918 ..	196	11,934	415	19,364	611	31,298
1919 ..	201	12,464	396	18,875	597	31,339
1920 ..	204	12,584	388	18,484	592	31,068
1921 ..	203	12,880	376	17,846	579	30,726
1922 ..	206	13,633	363	17,627	569	31,260
1923 ..	242	16,072	319	16,067	561	32,139
1924 ..	249	16,243	322	17,220	571	33,463

Of the 322 annuities held in 1924 in companies whose head offices were outside Victoria, 302 for £15,682 per annum were in New South Wales offices, 6 for £1,012 in English offices, and 14 for £526 in American offices. The figures in the above table include annuities granted by industrial departments of life assurance companies, of which there was one for £49 in force on 31st December, 1924.

**Life
assurance—
new business.**

The preceding tables relate to policies in force. The succeeding table contains summarized information in relation to the new business written by all life assurance companies during each of the last five years, the number of policies, sum assured, and premium income being given.

LIFE ASSURANCE—NEW POLICIES ISSUED, 1920 TO 1924.

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Ordinary Business.</i>					
Number of Policies—					
Assurance	6,572	5,758	7,542	8,385	7,542
Endowment Assurance ..	19,636	18,764	17,171	20,211	16,121
Pure Endowment	3,255	1,993	2,001	2,077	2,776
Total	29,463	26,515	26,714	30,673	26,439
Annuities	23	22	28	57	35
Sum Assured—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	2,953,065	2,960,958	3,925,308	4,490,334	4,350,260
Endowment Assurance ..	3,904,365	3,662,190	3,695,133	4,273,358	3,881,965
Pure Endowment	456,866	325,416	301,481	321,488	419,498
Total	7,314,296	6,948,564	7,921,922	9,085,180	8,651,723
Annuities	1,127	1,131	2,414	3,786	3,123
Single Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	1,539	932	11,399	5,356	2,720
Endowment Assurance ..	2,047	1,538	428	2,565	804
Pure Endowment	466	115	503	1,307	..
Total	4,052	2,585	12,330	9,228	3,524
Annuities	9,284	11,037	17,998	32,322	21,624
Annual Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	97,199	96,566	127,918	141,329	143,210
Endowment Assurance ..	155,844	144,813	140,952	170,151	160,007
Pure Endowment	17,953	13,018	12,116	13,193	17,178
Total	270,996	254,397	280,986	324,673	320,395
Annuities	37	17	72	178	..
<i>Industrial Business.</i>					
Number of Policies—					
Assurance	4,366	3,987	4,065	3,576	3,120
Endowment Assurance ..	51,501	54,882	60,137	64,291	73,407
Pure Endowment	2,999	4,694	6,607	7,982	7,862
Total	58,866	63,563	70,809	75,849	84,389
Sum Assured—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	178,490	142,744	161,225	148,143	131,466
Endowment Assurance ..	2,159,445	2,566,352	2,849,401	3,021,393	3,522,512
Pure Endowment	123,390	215,507	314,865	397,008	354,209
Total	2,461,325	2,924,603	3,325,491	3,566,544	4,008,187
Single Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	9	11	23	113	28
Endowment Assurance ..	..	..	..	107	80
Pure Endowment .. ..	..	..	..	113	25
Total	9	11	23	333	133
Annual Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	9,617	8,754	10,059	9,304	8,507
Endowment Assurance ..	140,076	155,158	173,009	186,759	216,322
Pure Endowment	9,080	13,354	19,458	23,503	22,741
Total	158,773	177,266	202,526	219,566	247,570

The new business for 1924 includes 26,439 ordinary assurance policies for £8,651,723 and 84,389 industrial policies for £4,008,187.

the former averaging £327 and the latter £47 in amount. The policies in force in the two sections of the business increased in the year by 6,676 for £3,734,890 and 32,603 for £1,848,211 respectively. Those which became claims by death or maturity or were discontinued during 1924 must therefore, after deduction of revivals, have numbered 19,763 for £4,916,833 in ordinary, and 51,786 for £2,159,976 in industrial assurance business.

Insurance—
Other than
life.

There were 112 companies transacting general insurance (other than life) business in Victoria during 1924. The revenue and expenditure relating to the principal classes of insurance are shown in detail for that year in the following statement:—

GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS IN VICTORIA, 1924.

Nature of Insurance.	Revenue in Victoria.			Expenditure in Victoria.			
	Premiums less Reinsur- ances and Returns.	Other Revenue.	Total.	Losses, less Reinsur- ances.	Expenses of Management.		Total.
					Commis- sion and Agents' Charges.	Other.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fire	1,735,975	85,443	1,821,418	744,309	263,561	502,934	1,510,804
Marine	336,658	12,334	348,992	217,514	33,722	81,022	332,258
Guarantee	18,716	1,148	19,864	2,605	2,139	5,392	10,136
Live Stock	15,081	296	15,377	7,401	2,409	3,507	13,317
Plate Glass	37,431	1,122	38,553	13,398	6,627	8,842	28,867
Motor Car	355,071	8,127	363,198	221,133	45,951	72,844	339,928
Accident (personal) ..	61,160	1,407	62,567	17,026	7,878	11,183	36,087
Workers' Compensation	339,474	18,745	358,219	235,308	28,740	72,600	336,648
Other	115,422	4,520	119,942	40,970	17,814	30,299	89,083
Total	3,014,988	133,142	3,148,130	1,499,664	408,841	788,623	2,697,128

The following table shows the transactions of insurance companies doing other than life business which operated in Victoria during the period 1920 to 1924 :—

INSURANCE—OTHER THAN LIFE, 1920 TO 1924.

Nature of Insurance.	Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
		Premiums.	Other.	Total.	Losses.	Other.*	Total.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Fire ..	1920	1,455,671	58,986	1,514,657	341,809	633,117	974,926
	1921	1,539,167	73,256	1,612,423	463,854	708,346	1,172,200
	1922	1,521,868	82,812	1,604,680	438,127	692,491	1,130,618
	1923	1,690,514	75,716	1,676,230	589,613	703,530	1,293,143
	1924	1,735,975	85,443	1,821,418	744,309	766,495	1,510,804
Marine ...	1920	380,194	14,800	394,994	98,532	109,625	208,157
	1921	403,027	20,474	423,501	157,239	119,817	277,056
	1922	342,544	18,923	361,467	84,820	111,434	196,254
	1923	326,955	12,017	338,972	134,637	100,448	235,085
	1924	336,658	12,334	348,992	217,514	114,744	332,258
Guarantee ..	1920	13,520	776	14,296	1,044	5,030	6,074
	1921	13,281	786	14,067	1,399	5,319	6,718
	1922	14,163	799	14,962	1,321	5,932	7,253
	1923	16,279	732	17,011	2,758	6,404	9,162
	1924	18,716	1,148	19,864	2,605	7,531	10,136
Live Stock ..	1920	11,952	262	12,214	4,683	4,737	9,420
	1921	10,200	158	10,358	4,790	4,054	8,844
	1922	13,745	208	13,953	7,340	5,844	13,184
	1923	13,376	259	13,635	5,194	5,096	10,290
	1924	15,081	296	15,377	7,401	5,916	13,377
Plate Glass ..	1920	26,399	584	26,983	11,214	10,312	21,526
	1921	29,917	796	30,713	12,174	12,768	24,942
	1922	31,344	966	32,310	10,821	13,028	23,849
	1923	35,131	907	36,038	12,640	14,273	20,913
	1924	37,431	1,122	38,553	13,398	15,469	28,867
Motor Car ..	1920	82,946	2,867	85,813	35,763	30,393	66,156
	1921	106,569	3,303	109,872	60,118	37,835	97,953
	1922	156,839	3,996	160,835	85,718	59,791	145,509
	1923	239,213	5,623	244,836	123,021	81,332	204,353
	1924	355,071	8,127	363,198	221,133	118,795	339,928
Accident (Personal)	1920	52,269	873	53,142	18,279	20,422	38,701
	1921	48,672	1,133	49,805	18,732	20,797	39,529
	1922	56,686	1,521	58,207	20,714	25,235	45,949
	1923	57,520	1,196	58,716	22,292	22,955	45,247
	1924	61,160	1,407	62,567	17,026	19,061	36,087
Workers' Compensation ..	1920	233,129	9,876	243,005	127,693	74,895	202,588
	1921	268,181	13,369	281,550	133,759	88,089	221,848
	1922	288,060	16,875	304,935	149,036	97,156	246,192
	1923	313,912	17,375	331,287	176,701	98,421	275,125
	1924	339,474	18,745	358,219	235,308	101,340	336,648
Other ..	1920	68,620	12,186	80,806	37,469	28,274	65,743
	1921	82,186	7,329	89,515	39,508	37,852	77,360
	1922	87,181	4,395	91,576	35,679	38,248	73,927
	1923	102,181	4,170	106,351	40,540	43,557	84,097
	1924	115,422	4,520	119,942	40,970	48,113	89,083
Totals ..	1920	2,324,700	101,210	2,425,910	676,486	916,805	1,593,291 ²⁹
	1921	2,501,200	120,604	2,621,804	891,573	1,034,877	1,926,450 ⁷⁶
	1922	2,512,430	130,495	2,642,925	833,576	1,049,159	1,882,735 ³²
	1923	2,702,081	117,995	2,820,076	1,107,396	1,076,019	2,133,415 ⁴¹
	1924	3,014,988	133,142	3,148,130	1,499,664	1,197,464	2,697,128 ⁵⁰

* Including Commission and Agents' Charges.

The particulars given in the above tables relate to Victorian risks, that is, to all business written on the Victorian registers of the companies represented in the returns. The figures are net, being, in

the case of premiums, the amount thereof after deduction of premiums paid to reinsuring offices in Australasia and returns; the losses are reduced by the amounts recovered from Australasian reinsuring offices, but include losses on Victorian risks wherever paid. Premiums paid and losses recovered under re-insurances of Victorian business effected outside Australasia have not been deducted in compiling the figures.

The total amount at risk is not available, but it is obvious, from the extent of the premiums, that the amount covered must be very large. The total losses on all classes of insurance for the five years given in the table represent 38·4 per cent. of the premiums.

COMPANIES.

Trading
companies
registered.

A statement of the number and the nature of the business of trading companies floated and registered in Victoria during the year 1924 is appended :—

TRADING COMPANIES REGISTERED IN VICTORIA, 1924.

Nature of Business.	No. Regis- tered.	Nature of Business.	No. Regis- tered.
MANUFACTURING—		MANUFACTURING— <i>continued.</i>	
Tanneries	5	Stove	1
Fellmongering	1	Brass, copper	3
Soap	1	Other metal working	3
Brick, pottery, tile	9	Milk products	5
Concrete	6	Flour milling	2
Fibro-plaster	6	Preserves	5
Monumental	1	Confectionery	1
Glass	4	Cordials	3
Sawmilling, timber mer- chants, &c.	24	Woollens and Knitting	8
Engineering, ironfoundry, and machinery	43	Clothing, dressmaking, &c. ..	15
		Boot, shoe, heel	14
		Printing and publishing	23

TRADING COMPANIES REGISTERED IN VICTORIA, 1924—continued.

Nature of Business.	No. Regis- tered.	Nature of Business.	No. Regis- tered.
MANUFACTURING—continued.			
Motor bodies &c. ..	6		
Furniture ..	6	TRANSPORT—	
Drugs, Chemicals ..	8		
Paint, varnish, whitelead ..	2		
Motor Accessories ..	6	Motor garage, taxi-cab ..	22
Electrical Apparatus ..	11	Motor bus, char-a-banc ..	10
Miscellaneous ..	19	Carriers ..	10
		Shipping ..	5
PRIMARY PRODUCTION—			
Plantations ..	2		
Pastoralists ..	6	MISCELLANEOUS—	
Farmers ..	13		
Mining and prospecting ..	11	Hotels, restaurants, &c. ..	28
Orchardists ..	5	Builders and contractors ..	29
Dairymen ..	1	Clubs ..	7
Quarries ..	15	Educational ..	7
		Caterers for amusement ..	29
		Grocers, storekeepers ..	12
TRADING—		Drapers ..	7
Warehousemen, merchants, dealers, &c. ..	121	Advertising ..	5
		Weighbridge ..	3
		Butchers ..	6
FINANCIAL—		Electric Supplies ..	5
		Booksellers ..	3
Land and property invest- ment ..	44	Baker ..	3
Auctioneering, Estate agents Indenting, agency, importers &c. ..	20	Chemist ..	1
Insurance, brokers, and under- writers ..	45	Painters ..	3
Financiers ..	9	Tobacconist ..	3
		Furriers ..	2
		Fruit storage ..	3
		Accountants ..	2
		Other ..	38

The figures in the above table refer only to companies floated and registered in Victoria under Part I. of the *Companies Act* 1915, and are exclusive of 46 foreign companies registered during the year. Forty-seven ordinary mining companies were registered during 1924 under Part II. of the Act. These, as well as insurance companies doing life business only, and building societies, are also excluded from the table.

Of the 781 companies registered during 1924 as shown above, 689, or about 88 per cent., were registered as proprietary companies.

Particulars relating to companies registered under Parts I. and II. of the *Companies Act* 1915, in so far as these are recorded in the Registrar-General's office, are shown for the last five and a half years in the following statement:—

COMPANIES REGISTERED IN VICTORIA, 1920 TO 30TH JUNE, 1925.

(Parts I. and II. of *Companies Act* 1915.)

Year ended 31st December—	New Companies.						Number of existing Trading Companies.		Increase in Nominal Capital of Existing Companies during the year.*	
	Number Registered.				Nominal Capital.					
	Victorian Trading.	Foreign.	Mining.	Total.	Victorian Trading (excluding Foreign).	Mining.	Victorian.	Foreign.	Victorian Trading.	Mining.
					£	£			£	£
1920	542	58	76	676	47,165,357	2,173,750	2,379	505	11,150,562	(No record)
1921	496	64	50	610	48,287,648	1,218,375	2,202	698	3,572,632	304,750
1922	601	45	68	714	26,438,980	1,684,350	2,709	709	2,490,250	315,225
1923	732	59	65	856	27,397,945	1,419,500	3,221	753	3,692,347	490,417
1924	781	46	47	874	29,852,473	1,070,800	3,858	790	12,725,086	204,750
1925 (to 30th June)	372	23	20	415	26,189,250	1,202,750	4,130	810	2,298,650	148,500

* Increase in nominal capital subsequent to first registration.

The subscribed capital of the mining companies registered during 1924 was £931,745, and of those registered during the first six months of 1925, £855,902.

Since the *Building Societies Act* 1874 came into operation, 158 societies have been registered in accordance with its provisions. The business of the societies was extensive up to the year 1892, but it has since declined. The number of

Building Societies.

companies still carrying on business is 27, of which 5 were established on the Starr-Bowkett principle. The following table gives particulars of the principal items of business for the last five years:—

BUILDING SOCIETIES, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Number of societies ...	30	30	29	27	27
" shareholders	7,551	7,893	8,329	8,919	9,707
" borrowers...	9,537	9,520	9,298	9,673	9,936
Transactions during the Year —					
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from loans and investments	205,329	214,392	235,261	262,421	294,921
Loans granted ...	963,211	834,992	840,398	1,094,994	1,022,272
Repayments ...	985,779	770,114	831,610	962,390	921,176
Deposits received	961,029	925,533	1,013,665	1,268,266	1,355,493
Working expenses, including interest on deposits, &c.	74,583	81,529	96,075	106,740	122,521
Assets—					
Loans on mortgage	2,452,168	2,661,272	2,870,430	3,277,145	3,552,523
Properties in possession or surrendered	203,899	181,625	170,288	93,491	112,980
Other advances ...	18,791	16,075	11,619	12,648	11,707
Cash in hand, &c. ...	48,894	56,914	43,099	43,039	22,925
Other assets* ...	84,909	76,321	86,701	68,474	60,380
Total ...	2,808,661	2,992,207	3,182,137	3,494,797	3,760,515
Liabilities—					
To shareholders ...	1,272,203	1,358,458	1,455,837	1,530,426	1,623,680
" depositors ...	900,656	959,206	1,002,550	1,170,352	1,289,191
Bank overdraft ...	38,252	51,343	55,814	65,483	97,695
Other ...	82,694	92,069	94,449	67,501	85,683
Total ...	2,293,805	2,461,076	2,608,650	2,833,762	096,249
Reserve Funds ...	399,734	429,478	492,388	549,427	536,970

* Including Commonwealth War Loans Stock, £31,100 in 1919-20, £70,225 in 1920-21, £72,108 in 1921-22, £56,188 in 1922-23, and £49,344 in 1923-24.

Co-operative
societies.

The appended table contains particulars for the last five years of societies registered under the Provident Societies Act. The particulars given do not represent complete information regarding co-operative societies, since it is optional whether such societies register as provident societies or as trading companies. It is known that there is a large number of co-operative butter factories and other co-operative societies which are registered as trading companies under the Companies Act and are not represented in the table here given.

PROVIDENT (CO-OPERATIVE) SOCIETIES, 1920 TO 1924.

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Number of Societies	75	74	77	74	74
Number of Shareholders ..	18,592	19,338	21,902	20,162	20,025
Total Sales during Year ..	£ 1,718,301	£ 1,619,420	£ 5,861,153	£ 6,476,107	£ 6,053,457
Other Revenue	88,602	87,032	96,647	73,389	62,027
Wages and Salaries for Year ..	119,912	132,133	155,417	148,814	156,488
Other Working Expenses ..	131,282	107,153	782,578	746,824	709,906
Net Trading Profit	62,733	28,930	28,560	42,335	51,179
Liabilities at end of Year—					
Paid-up Capital	216,689	253,469	293,872	251,822	270,597
Reserves	75,139	76,531	83,456	95,521	126,054
Bank Overdraft	143,972	139,188	363,798	138,689	140,497
Sundry Creditors*	262,490	272,470	795,901	515,964	644,512
Other Liabilities	93,149	90,572	187,584	57,280	58,042
Total Liabilities	791,439	832,230	1,724,611	1,059,276	1,239,702
Assets at end of Year—					
Real Estate	212,768	239,705	303,785	259,810	251,096
Stock	293,430	246,859	927,317	225,004	224,079
Fittings, Plant, and Machinery	60,568	77,323	100,803	79,830	80,352
Sundry Debtors	245,656	234,189	394,917	236,542	332,869
Cash in Hand and on Deposit	25,529	21,062	19,825	312,790	409,879
Other Assets	20,957	37,283	17,454	12,525	10,336
Total Assets	858,908	876,421	1,764,101	1,126,501	1,308,611

* Includes Government Advances.

The figures for 1922, 1923, and 1924 show a large increase as compared with those for the preceding years. This is due to the inclusion of the Victorian Wheatgrowers Corporation Ltd., which was incorporated for the purpose of marketing Victorian wheat.

The number of societies which were registered under the Provident Societies Act up to 31st December, 1924, was 200; of these 155 had been registered subsequently to the year 1900. The nature of the business carried on by the 74 societies in existence in 1924 is shown in the subjoined statement :—

EXISTING PROVIDENT SOCIETIES, 1924.

Nature of Business.	No. transacting Business.
General merchants	16
Farmers' associations acting as general merchants and commission agents, &c.	12
Fruitpackers, merchants, and salesmen	7
Cool storage	8
General store, bakery	11
Supplying fruitgrowers' requisites	2
Purchase of real and personal property	2
Printing and publishing	2
Co-operative credit banking	1
Fish selling	1
Storage of wheat	1
Erection of building	1
Supplying butchers' requisites	1
„ farriers' requisites	1
Egg-laying competition	1
Employees' general store	1
Importers and indentors	1
Leather and grindery store	1
Marketing and selling of wheat	1
Weighbridge	1
Building Trades Guild	1
Wholesale Stationery	1
Total	74

The co-operative cool stores societies have been formed chiefly to provide cool storage accommodation for the fruit grown by their members, who are orchardists. Several of these societies have availed themselves of the provisions of Part I. of the *Fruit Act* 1917, which empowers the Government to make advances to companies for the purpose of constructing fruit-works.

**Trustees,
Executors,
and Agency
Companies.**

There are eight trustee companies transacting business in Victoria. From their published balance-sheets the following particulars for 1923-24 have been obtained:—Paid-up capital, £406,780; reserve funds, &c., £306,133; other liabilities, £186,875; total liabilities, £899,788. The assets were:—Deposits with Government, £122,404; other investments in public securities, &c.,

£227,247; loans on mortgage, £24,935; property, £319,285; other assets, £205,917. The net profits for the year were £75,465, and the amount of dividends and bonuses was £50,132. The net profits are equivalent to 10·58 per cent. on the shareholders' funds, as represented by paid-up capital, reserves, and undivided profits.

LAND TRANSFERS, MORTGAGES, LIENS, ETC.

A summary of land transactions under the Transfer of Land Acts in the Titles Office for each of the last ten years is given hereunder.

DEALINGS LODGED AT THE TITLES OFFICE (UNDER THE TRANSFER OF LAND ACTS), 1915 TO 1924.

Year.	Transfers.	Mortgages.		Leases.	Plans of Sub-division.	Other Dealings.	Total Dealings.
		Number.	Amount.*				
	No.		£	No.	No.	No.	No.
1915 ..	27,129	13,283	8,780,619	159	243	16,652	57,466
1916 ..	26,059	10,840	7,485,247	134	281	16,115	53,429
1917 ..	26,796	9,487	5,327,321	122	244	16,426	53,075
1918 ..	33,771	10,627	5,956,609	100	264	19,075	63,837
1919 ..	45,555	13,581	7,815,209	136	368	23,051	82,691
1920 ..	64,555	19,373	12,489,329	136	663	31,191	115,918
1921 ..	48,670	19,822	14,588,121	112	522	26,462	95,588
1922 ..	57,772	20,704	15,046,025	150	594	27,798	107,018
1923 ..	62,225	24,513	17,268,625	113	922	30,117	117,890
1924 ..	54,735	27,209	20,722,146	88	979	29,535	112,546

* Excluding the amounts lent by building societies which are secured by transfers, and the amounts owing under mortgages given to secure overdrafts on current accounts.

TITLES ISSUED, 1915 TO 1924.

Year.	Certificates of Title.	Crown Grants.	Crown Leases.	Total Titles.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
1915 ..	14,358	2,180	2,103	18,641
1916 ..	13,795	2,080	2,147	18,022
1917 ..	13,148	2,108	1,618	16,874
1918 ..	15,426	2,057	1,504	18,987
1919 ..	19,120	1,762	1,117	21,999
1920 ..	25,583	2,186	1,437	29,206
1921 ..	21,027	1,759	1,410	24,196
1922 ..	26,041	1,879	2,597	30,517
1923 ..	27,781	2,086	2,378	32,245
1924 ..	27,996	2,122	2,086	32,204

Dealings
under the
Real Property
Act.

A statement of mortgages registered and reconveyances under the *Real Property Act* 1915 (commonly known as the General Law) is also appended :—

DEALINGS UNDER THE REAL PROPERTY ACT, 1915 TO 1924.

Year.	Mortgages Registered.		Reconveyances.	
	Number.	Amount.*	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
1915	780	696,355	567	293,350
1916	672	529,819	599	329,537
1917	529	434,464	509	193,204
1918	548	721,888	646	281,265
1919	635	471,870	741	343,500
1920	970	840,050	1,057	524,242
1921	983	881,325	933	404,685
1922	950	915,443	889	379,880
1923	1,043	1,409,242	869	434,548
1924	1,132	1,357,048	806	294,047

* Excluding the amounts owing under mortgages given to secure overdrafts on current accounts.

Stock
mortgages,
liens on wool
and crops.

The number and amount of stock mortgages, liens on wool, and liens on crops registered during each of the last five years were as shown below. Releases are not shown, as releases of liens are not required to be registered, the liens being removed from the register after the expiration of twelve months, with the exception of some liens to the Closer Settlement Board which cover a period of two or three years. Very few of the mortgagors of stock trouble to secure themselves by a registered release.

STOCK MORTGAGES AND LIENS ON WOOL AND CROPS, 1920 TO 1924.

Security.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Stock Mortgages—					
Number ..	258	2,736	2,253	2,053	1,371
Amount £	69,415	640,841	404,803	385,080	306,299
Liens on Wool—					
Number ..	32	35	25	16	26
Amount £	27,667	55,899	18,935	10,420	22,040
Liens on Crops—					
Number ..	3,114	2,795	3,758	4,069	3,190
Amount £	586,632	590,675	839,709	1,347,004	2,007,790
Total—					
Number ..	3,404	5,566	6,036	6,138	4,587
Amount £	683,714	1,287,415	1,263,447	1,742,504	2,336,129

**Bills and
contracts of
sale.**

Two forms of security are taken by lenders over personal chattels, viz., a bill of sale (absolute or conditional), or a contract of sale for letting and hiring. The former is a simple mortgage of the chattels, whilst the latter purports to be an absolute sale of the chattels to the lender, with an agreement by the lender to hire the goods back to the borrower at a certain rental, which takes the place of interest. Before filing a bill of sale fourteen days' notice of intention to file must be lodged with the Registrar-General, within which period any creditor may lodge a "caveat" to prevent the filing of the bill without the payment by the borrower of his claim. The following are the numbers and amounts of bills and contracts of sale which have been filed in each of the last five years:—

BILLS AND CONTRACTS OF SALE, 1920 TO 1924.

Security.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Bills of Sale—					
Number ..	1,122	1,235	1,470	1,429	1,551
Amount £	160,694	430,475	801,298	526,940	658,815
Contracts of Sale—					
Number ..	18	19	27	23	27
Amount £	1,384	2,008	2,865	3,275	5,170

LAW, CRIME, ETC.**THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN VICTORIA.**

The law of Victoria, in its basic principles and main provisions, is founded on the law of England. All laws in force in England in 1828 were, so far as they should be held to apply to the circumstances of Australia, by Imperial Statute made law in New South Wales (which then included Victoria); and, in case of any doubt as to their applicability, the Colonial Legislature was empowered to declare whether or not they did apply, or to establish any modification or limitation of them within the colony. The same Statute established a Legislature within New South Wales with power to make laws for that colony; and Supreme and other courts were constituted. On the separation of Port Phillip from New South Wales in 1851 the new colony of Victoria was invested with similar powers, which were widened on the establishment of responsible government in 1855. In order, therefore, to ascertain the law of Victoria as to any particular matter or point, considerable research is often involved. The first step is a search of the Victorian Statutes. If the matter is fully dealt with there, the labour is concluded; but, if it has never been dealt with by any Victorian Act, recourse must be had to the Statutes of New South Wales and the Imperial Statutes specially applicable to New South Wales passed between 1828 and 1851. If no law on the point is obtainable from these sources, the law of England in 1828 must be ascertained, which in most cases is found in the English text-books. Having found the apparent law from one of these sources, it is still necessary to search through series of law reports for decisions which may either modify or interpret the same.

LITIGATION AND LEGAL BUSINESS.

**Supreme
Court civil
business.**

The Supreme Court of Victoria was first established in 1852, and its constitution and powers remain substantially unaltered by recent legislation, although the procedure was entirely remoulded by the "Judicature Act 1883" (now incorporated in the Supreme Court Act 1915). There were in 1925 seven Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and six Puisne Judges.

The following is a statement of Supreme Court business during the last year of each of the five decennial periods ended 1910, and the last five years :—

SUPREME COURT CIVIL CASES, 1870 TO 1924.

Year.	Writs of Summons.		Causes Entered for Trial.	Causes Tried.	Verdicts for—		Amount Awarded.
	Number Issued.	Amount Claimed.			Plaintiff.	Defendant.	
		£					£
1870 ..	5,583	154,296	237	165	133	29	29,298
1880 ..	5,065	185,131	221	161	133	28	47,401
1890 ..	6,619	687,503	535	297	229	65	68,592
1900 ..	825	137,083	161	106	62	31	101,896
1910 ..	743	69,182	129	85	37	16	7,984
1920 ..	632	74,288	132	80	39	17	9,036
1921 ..	822	164,898	198	82	46	17	13,623
1922 ..	726	155,329	187	67	31	23	13,063
1923 ..	779	178,542	201	62	43	12	17,543
1924 ..	946	383,399	171	82	41	16	13,623

Decline in Litigation. There has been a considerable decline in litigation in the Supreme Court since 1890. In 1924 the writs issued were one-seventh, the amount sued for was about one-half, and the causes which actually came to trial were about one-fourth of the corresponding numbers in 1890. The figures show that a very small proportion of writs result in actual trials, whilst a large number of trials are either abandoned before a verdict is given, postponed to the following year, or settled.

County Court business. County Courts have a jurisdiction both in equity and common law cases, limited to £500; also in cases remitted by the Supreme Court. The cause of action must have arisen within 100 miles of the court in which proceedings are taken, which court must not be more than ten miles further away from defendant's residence than some other County Court in which the plaintiff might have sued. In 1924 there were 112 sessions lasting 468 days and held in 36 places. Particulars of litigation in the last

year of each of the five decennial periods ended 1910 and in each of the last five years are as follows :—

COUNTY COURT CASES, 1870 TO 1924.

Year.	Number of Cases Tried.	Amount Sued For.	Amount Awarded.	Costs Awarded to—	
				Plaintiff.	Defendant.
		£	£	£	£
1870 ..	11,866	277,236	102,822	13,815	4,268
1880 ..	9,498	215,929	99,338	13,765	3,956
1890 ..	12,635	340,028	127,433	15,363	6,072
1900 ..	789	160,676	49,595	5,188	2,782
1910 ..	626	144,550	45,196	5,199	1,992
1920 ..	680	283,238	113,804	*	*
1921 ..	824	399,801	213,113	*	*
1922 ..	796	385,074	200,534	*	*
1923 ..	934	428,153	219,602	*	*
1924 ..	959	570,951	239,517	*	*

* No record.

The number of cases tried in 1924 was above the average of recent years, but was only about 8 per cent. of the number in 1890. The amounts sued for and awarded were, however, greater than the amounts for that year. The decline in the number of cases would seem to indicate that the public is less inclined than formerly to institute legal proceedings for the settlement of disputes; and that the County Court is not resorted to for the recovery of petty and trade debts to the same extent as in former years.

The number of requests for arbitration under the **Workers' Compensation—Arbitration cases.** Workers' Compensation Act during the year 1924 was 233. The aggregate amount of compensation claimed was £57,553, and the amount awarded, £54,487. These figures are not included in the above table.

Petty Sessions civil business. Courts of Petty Sessions were held at 228 places in Victoria in 1924 by stipendiary magistrates and honorary justices. Clerks of courts of ten years' standing, who have passed the prescribed examination, and barristers of five years' standing are eligible for appointment as police magistrates, but there is no legal training or knowledge of the law required as a condition precedent to the appointment of a person as an honorary justice of the peace. The jurisdiction in civil cases is limited to what

may be called ordinary debts, damages for assault, and restitution of goods, where the amount in dispute does not exceed £50. Particulars of such cases heard during a series of years are given hereunder :—

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS: CIVIL CASES, 1870 TO 1924.

Year.	Cases Heard.	Amount Claimed.	Amount Awarded.
		£	£
1870	27,722	190,242	105,086
1880	19,983	75,684	50,764
1890	30,466	196,917	132,663
1900	17,577	95,890	80,960
1910	29,902	186,538	146,284
1920	33,300	218,408	153,198
1921	45,319	271,634	202,606
1922	47,140	384,441	295,697
1923	58,502	528,968	413,417
1924	73,264	637,137	497,833

In addition to the ordinary cases above mentioned, and to the criminal jurisdiction hereafter mentioned, Courts of Petty Sessions deal with other business of a civil and quasi-criminal nature. During the year 1924, 491 appeals against municipal ratings, 371 Children's Maintenance Act cases, 762 ejectment cases, 1,246 fraud summons cases against debtors, 1,993 garnishee cases, 12,438 cases relating to licences and certificates, 1,606 maintenance cases, 141 prohibition cases, and 603 miscellaneous cases were heard, and 262 persons alleged to be lunatics were examined.

A statement is given below of the number of writs received by the Sheriff in the last year of each of the five decennial periods ended 1910 and the last five years, from which it will be seen that the numbers in recent years have been much less than in 1890 :—

Writs by
the Sheriff.

WRITS RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF, 1870 TO 1924.

Year.	King's Writs against Person and Property.	Subjects' Writs against—		Total.
		The Person.	Property.	
1870	35	75	2,146	2,256
1880	35	58	1,944	2,037
1890	13	21	2,282	2,316
1900	4	3	199	206
1910 ... ..	...	4	166	170
1920 ... ..	...	3	124	127
1921 ... ..	...	9	186	195
1922	3	3	187	193
1923	6	1	237	244
1924	3	6	353	362

**High Court of
Australia.**

A statement showing the nature of this court and the powers vested in it appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 433.

**Intestate
Estates.**

The rules by which the property and effects, both real and personal, of persons dying intestate are by law distributed are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 437.

INSOLVENCIES.**Insolvencies,
&c.**

The number of failures and the declared assets and liabilities during the last year of each of the five decennial periods ended 1910 and in each of the last five years were as follows :—

**INSOLVENCIES AND DEEDS OF ARRANGEMENT,
1870 TO 1924.**

Year.	Insolvencies.			Deeds of Arrangement.		
	Number.	Declared Liabilities.	Declared Assets.	Number.	Declared Liabilities.	Declared Assets.
		£	£		£	£
1870	996	479,491	150,170	*	*	*
1880 ..	768	526,130	298,384	*	*	*
1890 ..	795	2,301,271	2,041,200	*	*	*
1900 ..	344	183,531	88,760	149	168,700	159,771
1910 ..	359	132,841	54,381	131	113,597	91,271
1920 ..	186	154,658	53,229	69	82,692	73,591
1921 ..	300	180,044	92,048	100	186,305	140,430
1922 ..	322	349,118	189,016	99	178,986	127,657
1923 ..	414	323,540	152,602	133	199,074	133,757
1924 ..	520	504,618	311,290	232	350,350	263,124

* Information not available.

The number of insolvencies in 1924 was the highest recorded in years subsequent to 1905, when the number was 570. The average yearly number during the ten years 1909 to 1918 was 358, and the average declared liabilities, £226,517. During the ten years 1899 to 1908 the average yearly number was 445, with declared liabilities of £244,538, whereas, during the ten years 1889 to 1898, when the failures resulting from the financial crisis of that period swelled the returns, the average yearly number was 833, with declared liabilities of £2,213,592. During the ten years 1879 to 1888 the average yearly number was 612, with declared liabilities of £661,720.

Insolvencies are of two kinds, voluntary and compulsory. The following table shows the number of petitions of each kind in the last five years :—

Year.	Voluntary.	Compulsory	Total.
1920	165	21	186
1921	270	30	300
1922	239	33	322
1923	376	38	414
1924	462	58	520

Occupations of Insolvents.

In the next return will be found the occupations, in six classes, of those who became insolvent or compromised with their creditors during the last five years, also the number of breadwinners in each class at the census of 1921, and the proportion of the former to the latter. The total number of insolvents does not include 70 whose occupations were not stated :—

OCCUPATION OF INSOLVENTS, 1919 TO 1924.

Occupation Groups.	Number of Breadwinners, Census, 1921.	Average Yearly Number of Insolvents, 1920 to 1924.	Insolvents to every 10,000 Breadwinners.
Professional	60,585	19	3·14
Domestic	58,225	13	2·23
Commercial	108,011	148	13·70
Transport and Communication	53,332	23	4·31
Industrial	234,245	198	8·45
Primary Producers	147,438	60	4·07
Total	661,836*	461	6·97

* Exclusive of 7,617 persons of independent means.

The number of breadwinners of the domestic and professional classes who became insolvent was smaller, in proportion to their numbers in the community, than those of any other class, whilst a greater proportion of the commercial than of any other class found it necessary to file their schedules or compound with their creditors.

A table showing the occupations of insolvents in detail for the years 1912 to 1916 appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 444.

DIVORCE.

The present law in regard to divorce is contained in the *Marriage Act* 1915, and a summary thereof is given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 445. The Act of 1915 was amended by Acts passed in 1919, 1921, and 1923, but the amendments relate to minor matters and do not affect the main features of the principal Act. The grounds upon which divorce might be granted were considerably extended by an Act passed in 1889.

Number of Divorces.

Since jurisdiction was first conferred upon the Supreme Court of Victoria in matters matrimonial in 1861, 6,615 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 112 decrees for judicial separation have been granted. Of these, 6,267 and 41 respectively have been issued since 1890; so that, during the 30 years ended 1890, only 348 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 71 for judicial separation were issued, or an average per annum of about twelve of the former and two of the latter; whereas, since the Divorce Act of 1889 received the Royal Assent in 1890, no fewer than 184 decrees per annum for dissolution of marriage have been granted, while the decrees for judicial separation have decreased to about one per annum.

Divorces, Sex.

The following table gives the number of petitions filed by husband and wife respectively, and the number of decrees granted for divorce, judicial separation, and nullity of marriage during the year 1924 :—

DIVORCES, 1924.

	Petitions filed by—			Decrees granted to—		
	Husband.	Wife.	Total.	Husband.	Wife.	Total.
Dissolution of Marriage	234	299	533	183	216	399
Judicial Separation ...	...	5	5	...	1	1
Nullity of Marriage	7	4	11	5	3	8
Total ...	241	308	549	188	220	408

Grounds of divorce.

The grounds upon which divorces were granted during the year 1924 were as follows :—

Grounds on which Granted.	Divorce.		Judicial Separation.		Nullity of Marriage.	
	Husband.	Wife.	Husband.	Wife.	Husband.	Wife.
Adultery ...	68	57	...	...	...	...
Bigamy ...	...	2	...	...	1	1
Consanguinity ...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Cruelty, repeated acts of ...	...	3	...	...	...	...
Desertion ...	113	141	...	1	...	...
Desertion and adultery ...	1	6	...	...	...	...
Drunkenness (habitual) ...	...	6	...	...	...	...
Impotence ...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Insanity ...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Sentences for crime ...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Total ...	183	216	...	1	5	3

Divorces, 1881 to 1924.

The following is a statement of the number of petitions and decrees for dissolution of marriage and judicial separation in the State of Victoria during the last year of each of the four decennial periods ended 1911 and each of the last five years, also of the proportion of decrees per 100,000 married couples living :—

**DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN VICTORIA,
1881 TO 1924.**

Year.	Petitions for—		Decrees for—		Divorces and Separations per 100,000 Married Couples Living.
	Dissolution of Marriage	Judicial Separation.	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	
1881	18	10	9	..	7
1891	153	1	99	..	57
1901	148	2	83	..	46
1911	262	2	211	..	99
1920	510	8	370	2	134
1921	446	4	380	1	136
1922	478	2	370	2	129
1923	528	3	426	2	145
1924	533	5	399	1	133

The extension of the grounds upon which divorce might be obtained had the effect of greatly increasing the number of petitions and decrees.

In New South Wales, where the law in regard to divorce does not differ much from that in Victoria, there were, in 1924, 1,100 decrees for dissolution of marriage and judicial separation. The number of divorces and separations in that year per 100,000 married couples living was 265. The average annual number for the five-year period 1920-24, in proportion to a like number of married couples, was 205, as compared with an average of 135 for the same period in Victoria.

CRIME.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE CRIMINAL LAW.

In nearly all cases where the criminal law has been broken the alleged offender is brought at the very first opportunity before a Court of Petty Sessions, before two honorary justices or a police magistrate, or both, or in some cases a single magistrate, and the court, if the matter is one which comes within its summary jurisdiction, disposes of the case summarily. If the offence is an indictable one, the magistrates hold a preliminary investigation, and, if they are satisfied that a *prima facie* case has been made out by the prosecution, the accused

is committed for trial to a superior court. There are two superior courts with criminal jurisdiction, viz., the Supreme Court, and a Court of General Sessions, which are held at various places throughout the State. The latter court may deal with all cases of an indictable nature except such as are expressly excluded from its jurisdiction, viz., ten of the most serious crimes. A person may be brought before magistrates by three modes of procedure, viz., by an arrest by a police officer on warrant issued on a sworn information; or in a limited number of cases without warrant if the offence has been witnessed by the arresting constable; or by a summons. If at a coroner's inquest a verdict is returned of murder or manslaughter, the accused person is sent for trial to the Supreme Court without any investigation before magistrates. The Attorney-General or Solicitor-General also has the power of presenting any person for trial before a superior court without the necessity of a preliminary magisterial hearing; and upon the application of any person, properly supported by affidavit, a grand jury may be summoned, on the order of the Full Court, if the affidavit discloses that an indictable offence has been committed by a corporate body; or that such an offence has been committed by any person, and that some justice has refused to commit such person for trial; or in the case of a committal that no presentment has been made at the court at which the trial would in due course have taken place. The grand jury, which consists of 23 men, investigates the charge, and, if it is of opinion that a *prima facie* ground of action has been made out, the case is sent for trial. The cases which are presented under these latter forms of procedure are, however, very rare.

Indeterminate sentences.

The Indeterminate Sentences Act came into force on 1st

July, 1908. Its principal provisions are—

1. The adoption of the indeterminate sentence for (a) habitual criminals, and (b) certain classes of other offenders.
2. The appointment of an Indeterminate Sentences Board.
3. The establishment of reformatory prisons.
4. A system of probation applicable to adults as well as minors.

A Board was appointed on 18th August, 1908. Its present members are:—The Hon. S. Mauger (chairman), Dr. C. S. Godfrey, and Mr. W. R. Anderson, I.S.O., P.M., formerly Secretary to the Crown Law Department. The secretary is Mr. G. F. Dicker, Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne.

The chief functions of the Board are to make visits of inspection monthly to each reformatory prison, to examine the conduct reports of the inmates and accounts of their earnings, to authorize promotion in grade, to approve of indulgences, and to make careful inquiries as to whether any persons detained in a reformatory prison are sufficiently reformed to be released on probation, and submit recommendations accordingly to the Chief Secretary; also generally to

report on the working of the Indeterminate Sentences Act and the regulations. Other important powers were vested in the Board under the provisions of the Amending Indeterminate Sentences Act of 1915, chief among which are :—

- (a) To parole a prisoner temporarily for the purpose of testing his reform ;
- (b) To impose conditions of release ;
- (c) To transfer prisoners from one reformatory prison to another ;
- (d) To hear charges of misconduct and impose punishment at a reformatory prison for the detention of persons not habitual criminals, the power formerly conferred on visiting justices in this regard being cancelled ;
- (e) To control the disbursement of a prisoner's earnings upon release ; and
- (f) To recommend to the Minister that he make an order permitting a prisoner detained in a reformatory prison to leave such prison temporarily—
 - (1) for the purpose of being treated in a hospital ; or
 - (2) to visit a relative believed to be dying ; or
 - (3) for any other reason which appears to the Board to be sufficient.

An important alteration under the Amending Act is the substitution of "Minister" for "Governor in Council" as the authority by whose direction a prisoner may be released on probation on the Board's recommendation. Regulations governing the treatment of declared habitual criminals, and of offenders not habituals, who are detained under indeterminate sentence in a reformatory prison, are now in operation.

In the early part of the financial year 1916-17 the Board was enabled to bring into operation two valuable aids to the reformation of the inmates of the reformatory prisons, by the Government sanctioning the purchase of a farm in connexion with the Castlemaine Reformatory, and the establishment of a forestry settlement at French Island. The equipment of the Castlemaine Reformatory was further improved in 1917 by the addition of the necessary plant and tools for imparting technical instruction to the inmates, this being given by an expert of the local technical school. The lads are now receiving practical training in the use of tools, framing, jointing, &c., and they have turned out much useful work. This instruction, coupled with the experience they are gaining in farming operations, is of value to them in gaining suitable employment in the country on release. The improvements carried out on the farm have added considerably to the value of the property, and include clearing, fencing, ploughing, the enlargement of dams for water supply, and the erection of poultry pens, and of a building containing a dining room and ten sleeping rooms for inmates who are allowed to sleep at the farm.

Poultry farming is now carried on upon a fairly large scale, and additional land adjoining the farm has recently been purchased to permit of agriculture being engaged in more extensively.

The appointment in 1924 of a trained teacher from the Education Department has made the outlook for a forward movement in reformatory work still more hopeful. The inmates receive class instruction in the forenoon, also tuition from 7 to 9 o'clock on five nights of each week.

The Afforestation camp at French Island has yielded good results, and the industry of the prisoners has received the commendation of the officers of the Forests Department. In addition to the work of afforestation, considerable improvements have been effected about the camp and additional buildings erected. The tree-planting season usually extends from May to September in each year. During other months the men are occupied in cutting fire breaks, clearing, and preparing for the next planting season. The experiment is of value, as it provides strenuous work for the men, who are drawn from those under indeterminate detention at Pentridge, and enables the "Honor" system to be carried out. At no time are the men under lock and key, and they are given a considerable amount of freedom, yet with few exceptions they have responded loyally to the trust placed in them. Any who fail to rise to the standard required of them are immediately returned to Pentridge. From time to time several prisoners have escaped, but with two exceptions they have been recaptured. Both here and at Castlemaine the open air life and work have had a beneficial effect upon the health of the prisoners, and the privileges and freedom they enjoy have not made them less amenable to discipline.

The number of prisoners under indeterminate detention on 30th June in each of the last five years was as follows:—

Name of Reformatory Prison.	Year ended 30th June.				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	54	39	31	41	51
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	47	42	39	60	66
Reformatory for Females, Coburg ..	2	2	..	..	1
McLeod Settlement, French Island ..	30	31	35	31	37
Geelong Reformatory Prison ..	..	..	..	6	7
Total	133	114	105	138	162

Probation officers to supervise first offenders released by the courts on recognizance under the provisions of the *Crimes Act* 1915 are appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Board. The number of such officers who have been appointed to date is 243.

OFFENCES HEARD BY MAGISTRATES.

Arrests and
summonses
for various
offences.

The following are particulars of the different classes
of offences dealt with by magistrates in 1924 :—

ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1924.

Nature of Offence.	Total.	Summarily Convicted, &c.		Discharged by Magistrates.		Committed for Trial.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Against the Person—							
Murder and attempts at	10	...	...	5	...	3	2
Manslaughter	14	...	...	...	...	11	3
Shooting at, wounding, &c.	27	...	...	13	...	14	...
Assaults	1,437	692	46	636	83	...	...
Others	259	74	6	80	9	88	2
Total	1,767	766	52	734	92	116	7
Against Property—							
Robbery, burglary, &c.	299	52	1	74	6	159	7
Larceny and similar offences	2,208	1,145	91	682	44	231	15
Wilful damage	452	217	18	204	12	1	...
Others	667	431	42	161	15	15	3
Total	3,626	1,845	152	1,121	77	406	25
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	23	...	...	...	...	23	...
Against Good Order—							
Drunkenness	9,814	5,481	552	3,349	432	...	...
Others	7,971	5,473	629	1,599	269	1	...
Total	17,785	10,954	1,181	4,948	701	1	...
Other Offences—							
Perjury	4	...	...	...	...	3	1
Breaches of—							
Defence Act	1,504	1,233	3	267	1	...	...
Education Act	12,838	9,971	1,527	1,088	252	...	...
Electoral Act	1,227	744	259	166	58	...	...
Licensing Act	3,721	2,499	298	757	167	...	...
Pure Food Act	472	356	43	68	5	...	...
Miscellaneous	25,527	21,074	1,419	2,756	258	19	1
Total	45,293	35,877	3,549	5,102	741	22	2
Grand Total	68,494	49,442	4,934	11,905	1,611	568	34

These particulars include the arrests and summonses disposed of in Children's Courts, which are detailed in the next table, other than arrests of neglected children.

Of the persons dealt with in the 50,708 summons cases, 42,748 were summarily convicted, 7,872 were discharged, and 88 were com-

mitted for trial. Of the total persons dealt with (68,494), 54,376 were summarily convicted, 13,516 were discharged, and 602 were committed for trial.

The table which follows shows the number of arrests and summonses for various offences which were disposed of in Children's Courts during the year 1924 :—

CHILDREN'S COURTS: ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1924.

Nature of Offence.	Number of Offences for which—				Others (Application to board out, &c.).		Total Offences.	
	Arrests were made.		Summonses were issued.					
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Against the Person—								
Assaults	24	3	45	3	..	..	69	6
Others	3	..	32	1	..	..	35	1
Total	27	3	77	4	..	..	104	7
Against Property—								
Larceny, &c.	556	14	801	12	..	..	1,357	26
Wilful Damage	24	3	229	2	..	..	253	5
Others	11	1	66	..	..	..	77	1
Total	591	18	1,096	14	..	..	1,687	32
Against Good Order—								
Drunkenness .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others	57	10	454	4	..	..	511	14
Total	57	10	454	4	..	..	511	14
Other Offences—								
Breaches of Defence Act ..	..	..	8	..	..	..	8	..
" Licensing Act..	..	..	10	..	..	..	10	..
Miscellaneous	180	62	701	31	64	17	945	110
Total	180	62	719	31	64	17	963	110
Grand Total	855	93	2,346	53	64	17	3,265	163

The arrests of neglected children, which in 1924 numbered 108, viz., 67 males and 41 females, have been included in this table to indicate the business done by Children's Courts, but they are eliminated from all other criminal tabulations.

Of the persons who were brought before magistrates during the last five years, 25 per cent. were arrested, and 75 per cent. summoned. The great increase in summons cases since 1906 is due principally to the number of prosecutions under the Licensing, Pure Foods, Commonwealth Electoral, and Defence

Arrests and
summons
cases.

Acts, and is also partially accounted for by more parents having been summoned for neglecting to send their children to school than in previous years—the compulsory clauses of the Amending Education Act requiring children to attend a greater number of times than formerly. Particulars for the last year of each of the four decennial periods ended with 1911, and for each of the last five years, are given in the subjoined table :—

ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES, 1881 TO 1924.

Year.	Arrested by the Police.	Brought before Magistrates on Summons.	Total.
1881	22,640	19,384	42,024
1891	31,971	24,525	56,496
1901	27,855	21,130	48,985
1911	19,398	25,128	44,526
1920	14,582	42,116	56,698
1921	15,249	47,153	62,402
1922	16,163	47,550	63,713
1923	17,223	49,889	67,112
1924	17,786	50,708	68,494

Neglected
children
arrested.

The arrests of neglected children, which are excluded from the above table and the tables which follow, numbered 193 in 1920, 112 in 1921, 115 in 1922, 98 in 1923, and 108 in 1924.

There has been a great falling off in the arrests in the last five years, as compared with previous years, the principal reason being that children boarded out with their own mothers by the Children's Welfare Department are not now arrested by the police.

The following table shows for each of the last five years the number of offences for which persons were arrested or summoned, summarily convicted, discharged by magistrates, committed for trial, and convicted after commitment, also the number per 10,000 of the population :—

NUMBER OF ARRESTS AND SUMMONS CASES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	Total.	Summarily Convicted.	Discharged by Magistrates.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.
1920 ...	56,698	43,088	12,815	795	461
1921 ...	62,402	46,924	14,702	776	520
1922 ...	63,713	49,464	13,516	733	463
1923 ...	67,112	53,183	13,295	634	400
1924 ...	68,494	54,376	13,516	602	401
Number per 10,000 of Population.					
1920 ...	374·9	284·9	84·7	5·3	3·0
1921 ...	405·9	305·2	95·6	5·1	3·4
1922 ...	405·5	314·8	86·0	4·7	2·9
1923 ...	412·9	327·2	81·8	3·9	2·5
1924 ...	417·2	331·2	82·3	3·7	2·4

In regard to persons arrested, minor charges are excluded, and only that charge which throughout the hearing of the case was most prominent is taken account of; but, in summons cases, the unit is each separate charge or case, and the number of convictions, discharges, &c., is, therefore, greater than the number of persons concerned.

CRIME AND DRUNKENNESS.

The subjoined table shows, for a series of years, the number of persons arrested or summoned, also the number per 1,000 of the population, for the only classes of offence for which complete comparisons can be made:—

CRIME IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA, 1890 TO 1924.

Year.	Number of Persons Arrested or Summoned for—				
	Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.	Total.
1890	4,091	5,036	18,501	36,456	64,084
1895	2,344	3,336	11,143	20,843	37,666
1900	2,103	3,106	15,878	28,003	49,090
1910	1,663	3,052	12,719	34,626	52,060
1920	1,509	4,877	7,154	42,758	56,698
1921	1,840	4,321	7,621	48,620	62,402
1922	1,570	3,639	8,773	49,731	63,713
1923	1,687	3,605	10,131	51,689	67,112
1924	1,767	3,626	9,814	53,287	68,494
Number per 1,000 of the Population.					
1890	3.66	4.50	16.54	32.59	57.29
1895	1.98	2.82	9.41	17.60	31.81
1900	1.76	2.60	13.31	23.47	41.14
1910	1.30	2.38	9.92	27.00	40.60
1920	1.26	3.23	4.73	28.27	37.49
1921	1.20	2.81	4.96	31.62	40.59
1922	1.00	2.32	5.58	31.66	40.56
1923	1.04	2.28	6.17	31.80	41.29
1924	1.08	2.21	5.93	32.45	41.72

The most noticeable feature of the above table is the large decrease in the arrests for drunkenness in the last five years as compared with earlier years.

Almost all serious crimes are either offences against the person or offences against property. The first-named consist mainly of assault, but include murder, manslaughter, shooting, wounding, and all crimes of lust. Offences against property consist principally of larceny and similar offences; but include burglary, robbery, &c., cattle stealing, and wilful damage to property.

The only serious crimes included under "Other Offences" are forgery, counterfeiting, conspiracy, and perjury, and these are very few in number, there having been in Victoria in 1924 only 30 of such crimes out of a total of 53,237 in the category to which they belong. A large proportion of the cases under the heading "Other Offences" are merely breaches of various Acts of Parliament, by-laws, &c., which indicate no degree of criminal instinct or intent on the part of the person charged. There is also among them a large number of offences against good order, including insulting behaviour, vagrancy, &c.

If it be desired to compare the above figures with those relating to other States or countries several considerations must be taken into account. The first point necessary is that the criminal law in the places compared be substantially the same; the second, that it be administered with equal strictness; and the third, that proper allowances be made for differences in the age and sex constitution of the population. These considerations must also be taken into account in comparing crime in recent years with that in previous periods when there may have been differences in the law and when the population was very differently constituted in regard to sex and age.

SENTENCES PASSED.

The results of summary disposal of cases by magistrates during 1924 were as follows:—

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF PERSONS ARRESTED, 1924.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid	5,789	646	6,435
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	2,700	415	3,115
1 and under 6 months	940	92	1,032
6 and under 12 months	203	18	221
1 to 2 years	2	...	2
2 years	5	...	5
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety ...	339	34	373
Admonished	281	16	297
Sent to Industrial or Reformatory Schools ...	99	2	101
Otherwise dealt with	34	13	47
Total sentenced	10,392	1,236	11,628
Discharged	4,984	660	5,644
Total summarily disposed of ...	15,376	1,896	17,272
Sentenced per 10,000 of population ...	127·4	15·0	70·8

Sentences in
superior
courts.

The following were the sentences of the arrested persons tried and convicted in superior courts during 1924 :—

SENTENCES OF ARRESTED PERSONS TRIED AND
CONVICTED, 1924.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid	2	...	2
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	1	...	1
1 and under 6 months	42	3	45
6 " 12 "	124	3	127
1 " 4 years	57	1	58
4 years	1	...	1
Death recorded	1	...	1
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety	78	7	85
Sent to Reformatory Prison	27	...	27
Total convicted	333	14	347
Acquitted	145	15	160
Not prosecuted	13	1	14
Convictions per 10,000 of population...	4·08	·17	2·11

In addition to being sent to gaol, four prisoners were ordered one whipping each, and one prisoner two whippings, with a birch or a cat-o'-nine-tails.

Prisoners remaining for trial from the previous year and sentenced in the year mentioned are included in the above statement, but those awaiting trial at the end of the year are excluded.

In compiling the criminal statistics of the State each year a person arrested more than once is counted as a separate individual in respect of each arrest. It is possible to ascertain approximately the number of distinct persons passing through the hands of the police by making a close comparison

Arrests of
distinct
individuals.

Individuals arrested more than once. Of the total number of arrests, 17,786, only 13,750, or 77 per cent., were of distinct individuals. Of these, 11,572, or 84 per cent., were arrested only once; 1,396, or 10 per cent., twice; 399, or 3 per cent., three times; 169, or 1 per cent., four times; and 214, or 2 per cent., five times and over—one of these persons having been arrested twenty times. The table which follows gives a comparison of 1924 with 1907—a year in which an important Act relating to the obtaining and holding of licences came into force. From this it will be seen that there was a large decrease in the later year in the number of distinct persons arrested:—

DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED, 1907 AND 1924.

Year.	Distinct Persons Arrested.						Percentage Arrested.				
	Number.			Per 100,000 of the Population.			Once.	Twice.	Thrice.	Four Times.	More than Four Times.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.					
1907 ...	14,519	2,297	16,816	2,410	369	1,372	83	10	3	2	2
1924 ...	12,527	1,223	13,750	1,536	148	837	84	10	3	1	2

Sexes of those arrested more than once. The tendency of females to be arrested over and over again is much greater than that of males, for, while only 15 per cent. of the males who fell into the hands of the police were arrested more than once in 1924, as many as 25 per cent. of the females were so arrested.

Distinct persons arrested more than once for drunkenness. The distinct persons arrested for drunkenness during 1924 numbered 7,222, and, of these, 1,307, or 18 per cent., were arrested more than once, viz., 806 twice; 262 thrice; 99 four times; 48 five times; and 92 more than five times, of whom 1 was arrested twenty times.

Drunkenness, 1907 and 1924. The number of distinct persons arrested for drunkenness was 10,944 in the year 1907, and 7,222 in 1924. The proportions per 1,000 of the population were 8·93 and 4·40 respectively in the years mentioned, the decrease in the later year being equivalent to a reduction of 51 per cent.

Drunksards charged with other offences. Whilst the number of distinct persons arrested for drunkenness in 1924 was 7,222, the charges of drunkenness brought against them numbered 9,713; these persons were also charged with 1,387 other offences, so that the total number of charges of all kinds against drunksards was 11,100. Fifty-five per cent. of the arrests during 1924 consisted of persons who were charged with drunkenness.

Drunkenness, 1920 to 1924. The number of persons and the number per 1,000 of the population arrested or summoned for drunkenness during the last five years are given hereunder :—

PERSONS ARRESTED OR SUMMONED FOR DRUNKENNESS, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	Number of Persons —			Number per 1,000 of Population.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total.	
1920 ...	7,090	64	7,154	4.73
1921 ...	7,542	79	7,621	4.96
1922 ...	8,684	89	8,773	5.58
1923 ...	10,029	102	10,131	6.17
1924 ...	9,713	101	9,814	5.98

Drunkenness — Comparison with previous years. The amount of drunkenness in proportion to population, as evidenced by arrests, being taken as 100 in 1874-8, the corresponding numbers for subsequent periods will show the increase or decrease by comparison. These numbers are given in the following statement :—

Period.	Index Number.	Period.	Index Number.
1874-78	100	1915	64
1879-85	88	1916	55
1886-92	106	1917	37
1893-97	65	1918	29
1898-1902	84	1919	29
1903-07	77	1920	32
1908-12	68	1921	34
1913	72	1922	38
1914	69	1923	42
		1924	40

A very considerable decrease in drunkenness is shown for the five years 1893-97, which was a period of general depression. In the five years following an increase occurred, but since that time the arrests for this offence have declined. In the middle of the year 1915 an Act was passed limiting the number of hours during which alcoholic liquors could be sold in hotels, and a further limitation was made in the following year. This probably accounts for the marked decrease in drunkenness in the last nine years. The index numbers for that period are the lowest on record.

The accompanying table shows the number of persons under 20 years of age arrested for drunkenness, also the number arrested per 100,000 of the population under that age, from which it will be seen that very few young persons are arrested for this offence :—

ARRESTS OF PERSONS UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE CHARGED WITH DRUNKENNESS, 1895 TO 1924.

Year.	Number.	Number per 100,000 of the Population under 20 years of age.
1895	185	35·60
1900	222	42·38
1910	128	24·19
1920	140	24·15
1921	110	18·72
1922	118	19·58
1923	143	23·07
1924	159	25·24

The crimes for which juvenile offenders were arrested in 1924, and their ages are given in the subjoined statement :—

OFFENCES CHARGED AGAINST JUVENILES ARRESTED DURING 1924.

Nature of Offence.	Ages.										Total.
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
<i>Against the Person—</i>											
Assault	1	4	5
Others	1	2	..	3
<i>Against Property with Violence—</i>											
Housebreaking	3	1	3	5	5	9	9	11	46
Others	1	..	..	1
<i>Against Property without Violence—</i>											
Larceny, &c.	1	4	14	12	10	23	20	36	120
Others	1	1	3	1	6	4	5	12	33
<i>Against Good Order—</i>											
Drunk and disorderly	2	2
Offensive behaviour, &c.	2	2	14	18
Others	2	2	9	13
<i>Miscellaneous—</i>											
Escaping from legal custody	1	3	1	2	2	1	1	11
Others	1	..	..	1	..	1	3
Total	5	7	24	19	23	45	42	90	255

Education of persons arrested. One per cent. of the distinct individuals arrested in 1924 were entirely illiterate, 98 per cent. could read only, or read and write, and under 1 per cent. were possessed of superior or good education.

CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR.

Consumption of intoxicating liquor. The next table shows for a period of years the average yearly consumption of intoxicating liquors in Australia and New Zealand. It is not possible to give the Victorian consumption for a later year than 1909, as the Commonwealth Government discontinued keeping records of Inter-State trade in the following year.

AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS, BEER, AND WINE IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

	Yearly Average Quantity Consumed, 1st July, 1919, to 30th June, 1924.			Consumption per Head.		
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
Commonwealth of Australia ..	2,194,400	65,472,500	2,541,000	·40	11·88	·46
*Dominion of New Zealand ..	717,500	13,707,400	186,700	·56	11·01	·15

* Average for five years ended 31st December, 1924.

The quantities consumed per head in Australia and New Zealand during three quinquennial periods in the years 1909 to 1924, were as follows:—

	Australia.			New Zealand.		
	1909-13.*	1914-19.†	1919-24.†	1909-13.*	1915-19.*	1920-24.*
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
Spirits	·82	·60	·40	·79	·68	·56
Beer	12·40	12·30	11·88	9·69	10·49	11·01
Wine	·42	·34	·46	·14	·13	·15

Average for five years ended—

* 31st December.

† 30th June.

Expenditure
by the people
on intoxicating
liquor.

With the assistance of the figures in the preceding table, it is possible to estimate for Australia and New Zealand, with some degree of accuracy, the approximate expenditure of the people on intoxicating liquors in a year. The following table shows the average yearly consumption over a period of years :—

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND DRINK BILL.— YEARLY AVERAGE.

	Expenditure by the People on—					
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Total.		
				Amount.	Per Head.	Per Adult Individual.
	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
*Commonwealth of Australia ..	8,776,700	16,939,000	2,115,000	27,830,700	5 0 7	8 13 9
†Dominion of New Zealand ..	2,832,000	3,541,300	157,700	6,531,000	5 5 0	8 19 11

* Average for five years ended 30th June, 1924.

† Average for five years ended 31st December, 1924.

These figures show that the average yearly expenditure on drink in Australia during the five years ended 30th June, 1924, was £27,830,700, and that in New Zealand during the quinquennium 1920 to 1924 it was £6,531,000. The expenditure per head for the Commonwealth was £5 0s. 7d., and for New Zealand, £5 5s. 0d. The corresponding expenditures for the quinquennium 1909–13 were £3 10s. 2d., and £2 18s. 2d. per head, and for a similar period in the years 1914 to 1919, £3 7s. 8d., and £3 5s. 4d. per head.

LOCAL OPTION.

Local Option
Act of 1920.

At the general elections for the State Legislative Assembly, held on 21st October, 1920, the provision in the *Licensing Act 1906* (incorporated in the Act of 1915), which required a poll of the electors to be taken on the question of the number (if any) of liquor licences to be held in the various licensing districts of the State, was submitted to the electors. The resolutions were :—

- A. That the number of licences existing in this district continue.
- B. That the number of licences existing in this district be reduced.
- C. That no licences be granted in this district.

If resolution C had been previously carried and was in force in the district, the following was to be submitted instead of the resolutions mentioned above:—

D. That licences be restored in this district.

Resolution A or B was carried if a majority of the votes given was in favour of such resolution. Resolution C was carried if three-fifths at least in number of the votes given was in favour of that resolution, it being provided that, where less than such number was given, the votes recorded in favour of resolution C should be added to the votes given for resolution B. Resolution D was carried if three-fifths at least in number of the votes given was in favour of that resolution. Resolutions C and D could not be carried unless 30 per cent. or more of the number of electors on the electoral rolls for the district voted for the resolution.

In two licensing districts in the State, viz., Boroondara and Nunawading, resolution C was carried. Seven hotels in the former district and three in the latter had, therefore, to be closed. The amount of compensation awarded by the Licences Reduction Board was £12,100, or an average of £1,210 for each hotel.

Act of 1922. By an amending Licensing Act (No. 3259) assented to on 21st December, 1922, it is provided that a vote of the electors for the Legislative Assembly be taken on the licensing question once in every eighth year on a day to be fixed by proclamation of the Governor in Council, published in the *Government Gazette*, not being a day within three months before or after the day for a general election, the first of such polls to be taken in the year 1930.

At the first of such votes and at any subsequent vote, whenever licences exist, the following resolution only shall be submitted to the electors:—

Abolition.—That licences shall be abolished (Resolution I.).

If at any vote Resolution I. is carried the following resolution only shall be submitted to the electors at each subsequent vote until carried:—

Restoration.—That licences shall be restored (Resolution II.).

Hotels Closed, 1885-1905. During the period 1885 to 1905, 217 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls. The amount of compensation awarded was £212,771, or an average of £980 for each hotel. This sum was provided partly out of the Licensing Fund, and, when this was insufficient for the purpose, out of the general revenue.

Restricting the hours for the sale of intoxicants. In the year 1915 an Act was passed (No. 2584) which fixed the hours during which alcoholic liquors might be sold in hotels during the period of the war at from 9 o'clock in the morning until half-past 9 at night. By an Act passed in 1916 (No. 2827) the closing hour was fixed at 6 o'clock instead of 9.30. The latter provision was made permanent by Act No. 3028, passed on 19th December, 1919.

LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD.

Licences
Reduction
Board.

The Licences Reduction Board, provided for by the *Licensing Act* 1906, was appointed on 21st May, 1907. At the same time a Compensation Fund was instituted, which was raised by means of a percentage fee of £3 for every £100 of purchases of liquor, the owner of the premises being chargeable with two-thirds and the tenant with one-third of the fee. The duties of the Board are referred to in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, page 476. Just before the close of the year 1916 an amending Licensing Act (No. 2855) was passed, by which the members of the Licences Reduction Board were constituted a Licensing Court for the whole State. The taking of a local option poll was postponed to the second general election after January, 1917, and the court was authorized in the meantime to close hotels to the extent of the Compensation Fund available, as if reduction had been carried in every Licensing District. No alteration was made in the provisions abolishing the statutory number of hotels for a district, so that the number existing on 1st January, 1917, is now the maximum number, a similar provision applying to spirit merchants' licences, grocers' licences, Australian wine licences, and club licences. The Mallee area was made the subject of special legislation, under which it is possible after a petition and a poll to obtain victuallers' licences in proclaimed areas containing at least 500 electors. These victuallers' licences are to be 12 miles apart, except at Mildura, where there can be three hotels. The whole system of licence-fees was re-cast, fixed fees in the retail liquor trade being abolished and percentage fees substituted. In the wholesale section there are now percentage fees for the sales to private customers; and fixed fees in respect of the balance of the trade. The percentage fee in the case of hotels has been fixed at 6 per cent. of the annual liquor purchases, the owner paying three-eighths, and the licensee five-eighths. This combines and takes the place of the old fixed fees, the 3 per cent. compensation fee, and the assessments for lost licence fees arising out of the closing of hotels. Spirit merchants and holders of grocers' licences and Australian wine licences pay 4 per cent. of the cost of liquors sold to non-licensed purchasers.

Provision was made by Act No. 2776 for an adjustment of rents owing to the reduction effected by the "9.30 Closing Act" in the number of hours allowed for selling liquor, and this provision was extended by Act No. 2855 so as to provide for adjustments by reason of the further restrictions imposed by Act No. 2827—the "6 o'clock Closing Act." The work of adjustment was intrusted to the Board. Under the provisions of these Acts over 700 applications were received from licensees for adjustment of rent and licence-fee rebates.

Up to 31st December, 1925, 1,533 hotels had been closed by the Board or had surrendered their licences. The total sum paid in compensation was £90,161, or an average of £613 each. Four hundred and seventy-nine of these hotels were located in the Greater Melbourne

district; the compensation paid in connexion with these totalled £484,432, making an average of £1,011 each. There were 1,104 hotels closed in country districts, whose owners and licensees received £485,729, or an average of £440 for each hotel.

Particulars of the hotels closed and compensation awarded in metropolitan and country districts in each year since the constitution of the Board are set forth in the following table:—

NUMBER OF HOTELS CLOSED AND COMPENSATION AWARDED, 1907 TO 1925.

Year Ended—	Number of Hotels Closed.			Amounts Awarded Owners and Licensees.		
	Greater Melbourne.	Country.	Total.	Greater Melbourne.	Country.	Total.
31st December—				£	£	£
1907 ..	26	37	63	26,471	6,125	32,596
1908 ..	43	90	133	33,764	32,817	66,581
1909 ..	30	78	108	20,021	21,648	41,669
1910 ..	28	78	106	27,636	26,507	54,143
1911 ..	17	85	102	15,501	32,953	48,454
1912 ..	24	72	96	20,511	30,877	51,388
1913 ..	26	76	102	24,775	25,346	50,121
1914 ..	19	70	89	20,040	30,033	50,073
1915 ..	30	82	112	25,800	35,883	61,683
1916 ..	40	103	143	35,485	48,658	84,143
1917 ..	23	60	83	19,193	30,415	49,608
30th June—						
1918 ..	10	34	44	7,475	15,802	23,277
(six months)						
30th June—						
1919 ..	22	57	79	19,825	29,635	49,460
1920 ..	39	36	75	39,080	21,595	60,675
1921 ..	35*	57	92*	43,355	34,230	77,585
1922 ..	7	41	48	9,070	35,915	44,985
1923 ..	22	13	35	33,825	6,140	39,965
1924 ..	11	11	22	18,270	3,025	21,295
31st December,—						
1925	27	24	51	44,335	18,125	62,460
(18 months)						
Total ..	479	1,104	1,583	484,432	485,729	970,161

* Including ten hotels closed as the result of a Local Option poll held on 21st October, 1920.

In addition to the above closings, the following have been deprived of their licences, as a result of the local option poll held on 21st October, 1920:—5 spirit merchants, 4 grocers, 1 club, and 4 Australian wine licensees. The amount of compensation awarded was £550. Since 1922, 3 spirit merchants', 2 grocers', and 20 Australian wine licences have been taken away, for which compensation to the amount of £5,010 has been awarded.

A table showing the number of hotels closed in each licensing district to 30th June, 1921, appears in the *Year-Book* 1920-21, pages 293 to 299.

The return given hereunder shows the number of hotels, including roadside licences, in Victoria in 1885, 1906 and 1925, and the number of persons to each hotel in those years. The years 1885 and 1906 have been selected, because in those years important alterations were made in the liquor licensing laws :—

NUMBER OF HOTELS, 1885, 1906 AND 1925.

Year.				Estimated Population.	Number of Hotels.*	Persons to each Hotel.
1885	...	...	...	969,200	4,339	223
1906	...	...	...	1,244,470	3,520	354
1925	...	...	...	1,670,852	1,909	875
Increase, 1885 to 1925				701,652	...	652
Decrease, " " "				...	2,430	...

* Including Roadside Licences.

While the population has increased by 72 per cent. since 1885, the number of hotels has decreased by 56 per cent., and the number of persons to an hotel is now 292 per cent. more than it was in that year. During the period 1885-1925, 227 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls, 1,573 were deprived of their licences by the Licences Reduction Board, or surrendered their licences to the Board, and 677 were closed voluntarily. During the period of nineteen years, 1907 to 1925, 47 new licences were granted.

The *Lotteries Gaming and Betting Act* 1906 (now Section 152 of the *Police Offences Act* 1915) provides that all race-courses shall be licensed, for which a fee of £1 per annum is charged. It is stipulated that, in addition to this fee, there shall be paid annually a sum equal to 3 per cent. of the gross revenue derived from all sources. Where the gross revenue is less than £1,500, but more than £600, the annual sum payable is 2 per cent. of the revenue, and, where the gross revenue is £600 or less, no percentage is charged. The amounts paid into the Consolidated Revenue in licence fees and percentages on receipts during the last ten years were as follows :—

REVENUE FROM RACE-COURSE LICENCES AND PERCENTAGE FEES, 1916 TO 1925.

Year ended 30th June.			Amount.	Year ended 30th June.			Amount.
			£				£
1916	..	..	11,758	1921	..	..	17,731
1917	..	..	13,380	1922	..	..	17,578
1918	..	..	11,346	1923	..	..	20,124
1919	..	..	11,557	1924	..	..	20,516
1920	..	..	13,416	1925	..	..	21,714

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

Gaols and prisoners.

There are seven gaols in Victoria, including the Pentridge Penal Establishment, and five reformatory prisons, also four police gaols which are used as receiving stations; the figures given below show that there is accommodation in the gaols for more than twice the average number of prisoners in confinement. The following statement contains information for the year 1924 in regard to the accommodation for prisoners, the daily average number in confinement, the number received during the year, and the number in confinement at the end of the year:—

GAOL ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS, 1924.

Name of Institution.	Number of Prisoners.							
	For whom there is Accommodation.		Daily Average.		Total Received.		In Confinement, 31.12.24.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Pentridge ..	588	..	406	..	921	..	421	..
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	68	..	46	..	83	..	60	..
Ballarat ..	62	18	13	..	235	12	15	..
Bendigo ..	116	28	14	..	221	5	14	1
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	97	..	56	..	95	..	62	..
Coburg Female Prison ..	..	130	..	35	..	284	..	37
Coburg Reformatory Female Prison ..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..
Geelong ..	187	29	61	..	310	3	53	..
Geelong Reformatory Prison ..	10	..	6	..	8	..	6	..
McLeod Settlement Reformatory Prison ..	45	..	26	..	27	..	24	..
Metropolitan ..	111	*	97	13	3,247	333	100	..
Sale ..	30	5	5	..	100	1	2	..
Police Gaols ..	95	19	4	..	145	2	9	..
Total ..	1,409	239	734	48	5,392	640	766	38

* Accommodation is provided, in the Coburg Female Prison, for females sent to the Metropolitan Gaol.

Prisoners in confinement, 1871 to 1924—decrease.

A statement is given below of the average number of prisoners in detention in the gaols of the State in the last year of each of the decennial periods 1871 to 1911 inclusive, and in each of the last five years. From this it will be seen that there has been a considerable decrease in late years as compared

with earlier periods. The rate per 10,000 of population, aged fifteen years and over, was, in 1924, 23 per cent. less than in 1911, 53 per cent. less than in 1901, 73 per cent. less than in 1891, 77 per cent. less than in 1881, and 82 per cent. less than in 1871.

PRISONERS IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1924.

Year.	Average Number of Prisoners in Confinement.			Number per 10,000 of Population, aged 15 years and over.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1871 ...	1,345	274	1,619	54·77	15·46	38·30
1881 ...	1,294	304	1,598	45·25	12·35	30·03
1891 ...	1,550	350	1,900	38·78	10·07	25·43
1901 ...	951	200	1,151	23·92	5·06	14·53
1911 ...	713	100	813	15·73	2·16	8·87
1920 ...	706	50	756	13·68	·92	7·12
1921 ...	741	54	795	14·56	·98	7·40
1922 ...	752	54	806	14·36	·98	7·31
1923 ...	735	60	795	13·38	1·04	7·05
1924 ...	734	48	782	13·00	·82	6·79

**Birthplaces,
religions,
and ages of
prisoners.**

The birthplaces, religions, and ages of prisoners constantly detained, as deduced from the numbers passing through the gaols, are shown below for the five decennial periods ended with 1921 and for 1924 :—

BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY DETAINED, 1881 TO 1924.

—	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1924.
Total	1,598	1,900	1,151	813	795	782
Birthplace—						
Australia and New Zealand	584	845	689	595	660	608
England and Wales ..	401	420	149	87	64	87
Scotland	105	129	56	26	18	32
Ireland	378	336	160	62	23	27
China	27	14	18	4	1	2
Others	103	156	79	39	29	26
Religion—						
Protestants	888	1,098	651	476	479	457
Roman Catholics ..	671	729	465	317	293	302
Jews	7	14	8	4	4	4
Buddhists, Confucians, &c..	27	14	12	1	..	..
Others	5	45	15	15	19	19
Age—						
Under 20 years	229	129	75	54	85	63
20 to 30 years	473	669	316	205	287	249
30 to 40 years	312	457	337	211	190	190
40 to 50 years	294	279	234	193	126	144
50 to 60 years	166	193	102	96	68	85
60 years and over ..	124	173	87	54	39	51

BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY DETAINED, PER 10,000 OF POPULATION, 1881 TO 1924.*

—	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1924.
Birthplace—						
Australia and New Zealand	10·84	10·65	7·25	5·32	4·92	4·23
England and Wales ..	27·20	25·78	12·72	9·73	6·53	8·46
Scotland	21·81	25·46	15·66	9·78		
Ireland	43·58	39·39	26·01	14·95		
China	22·88	16·53	28·89	7·14	3·54	6·78
Others	35·34	39·24	25·80	11·64	11·13	9·32
Religion—						
Protestants	14·36	13·12	7·19	4·90	4·12	3·70
Roman Catholics ..	32·98	29·33	17·63	11·07	9·08	8·73
Jews	16·17	21·68	13·54	6·38	5·21	4·87
Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	24·20	20·75	21·95	6·18	..	..
Others	2·00	10·78	7·03	3·05	4·97	3·76
Age—						
Under 20 years	35·30	2·53	1·42	1·01	1·45	1·00
20 to 30 years	34·18	27·36	15·30	8·67	10·93	8·84
30 to 40 years	34·82	31·30	18·23	11·66	8·35	7·79
40 to 50 years	20·95	32·00	20·07	11·64	7·20	7·67
50 to 60 years	34·84	23·95	15·35	9·60	4·50	5·23
60 years and over ..	30·88	23·90	8·73	5·58	3·07	3·75

* The ratios refer to 10,000 persons in the community whose birthplaces, religions, or ages were as stated above.

POLICE PROTECTION.

The following table shows the numbers in the various grades of the police force in Victoria on the 31st December, 1924 :—

POLICE IN VICTORIA, 31ST DECEMBER, 1924.

Designation.	Number,		
	Metropolitan.	Country .	Total.
<i>Foot.</i>			
Chief Commissioner	1	...	1
Superintendents	3	8	11
Inspectors	9	2	11
Sub-Inspectors	10	6	16
Sergeants, First class	40	11	51
„ Second class	33	16	49
Senior Constables	133	74	212
Constables	911	248	1,159
Detectives	25	2	27
Others ... ..	...	...	...
Total	1,170	367	1,537

POLICE IN VICTORIA, 31ST DECEMBER, 1924—continued.

Designation.	Number.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
<i>Mounted.</i>			
Sergeants, Second class	1	...	1
Senior Constables	1	1	2
Constables	55	215	270
Total	57	216	273
Grand Total	1,227	583	1,810

Strength of police force in proportion to population. The number of police in Victoria per 100,000 of the population and the corresponding proportions for other States, at the end of 1924, were as follows:—Victoria, 109·2; New South Wales, 128·2; Queensland, 137·5; South Australia, 114·4; Western Australia, 143·6; Tasmania, 109·3; and Northern Territory, 973·0.

Expenditure on police, gaols, &c. The next table contains a statement of the amount and the amount per head of population expended in connexion with the police, and the penal establishments and gaols of Victoria, in the year 1871-2 and every tenth year thereafter until 1911-12 inclusive, also in each of the five years ended with 1923-24 :—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS, 1871-2 TO 1923-24.

Year ended 30th June.	Amount Expended (exclusive of Pensions) on—					Amount per Head of Population.
	Maintenance, &c.		Buildings.		Total.	
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Es- tablishments.	Police.	Gaols and Penal Es- tablishments.		
	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.
1872 ..	190,711	57,855	5,722	2,133	256,421	6 10
1882 ..	201,063	53,032	14,996	3,328	272,419	6 2
1892 ..	283,409	65,679	19,113	23,319	391,520	6 9
1902 ..	271,561	51,948	7,064	3,613	334,186	5 6
1912 ..	316,456	48,514	12,856	2,300	380,126	5 8
1920 ..	459,425	60,561	2,878	1,386	524,250	7 0
1921 ..	528,168	73,902	5,752	2,079	609,901	8 0
1922 ..	527,305	71,825	6,681	2,336	608,147	7 10
1923 ..	531,440	75,732	8,597	4,631	620,400	7 10
1924 ..	540,109*	85,963	20,997	15,159	662,228	8 2

* This does not include amounts paid to members of the Special Constabulary Force, which was employed temporarily after the Police strike of 1923.

The police perform a number of duties in addition to those connected with the maintenance of law and order. The actual cost to the community of the police protection afforded is, therefore, less than the expenditure shown in the above table for maintenance of the police force.

Executions. During the twenty years ended with 1924 there were only eight executions in Victoria, one of which took place in 1908, one in 1912, two in 1916, two in 1918, one in 1922, and one in 1924. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip in 1835, 176 criminals have been executed within the State, of whom only four were females.

The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contains on page 490 a table showing the offences for which criminals were executed, also their birthplaces and religions, for the years 1842 to 1916.

Inquests. The number of inquiries into the causes of deaths of individuals during each of the last five years is given below:—

INQUESTS, 1920 TO 1924.

Cause of Death found to be due to—	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
External Causes—					
Accident	466	509	461	524	601
Homicide	12	8	10	11	7
Suicide	143	165	123	125	128
Execution .. .. .	..	..	1	..	1
Doubtful	24	20	17	18	19
Disease or Natural Causes	697	645	556	714	688
Intemperance	1	1	..	6	..
Unspecified or Doubtful Causes	7	7	5	3	4
Being "Still Born" .. .. .	..	2	1	..	1
Total	1,350	1,357	1,174	1,401	1,449
Number per 10,000 of Population ..	8·93	8·83	7·47	8·71	8·82

Of the deaths from external causes during the last five years, 75 per cent. were due to accidental causes, 2 per cent. to homicide, and 20 per cent. to suicide; in 3 per cent. of the cases the nature or motive of the violence which caused death was doubtful.

SOCIAL CONDITION.

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY.

The University of Melbourne.

The University of Melbourne was incorporated and endowed by an Act of the Governor and Legislative Council of Victoria, to which the Royal assent was given on 22nd January, 1853. The University buildings, together with those of the affiliated colleges, are situated on 106 acres of land in the southern part of Carlton. Under the provisions of Act No. 3285 assented to on 23rd October, 1923, the University is to consist of a Council and Convocation. It has power to grant degrees, diplomas, certificates, and licences in all faculties except divinity. There is no religious test for admission.

The Council is composed of 31 members, as follows :—

Eight to be appointed by the Governor in Council, of whom one shall be a member of the Legislative Council, two shall be members of the Legislative Assembly, one shall represent manufacturing and commercial interests, one shall represent agricultural interests, two shall represent industrial interests, and one shall be elected by the councils of the technical schools.

Ten to be elected by the Convocation, none of whom shall be a member of the teaching staff or other officer of the University or the head of an affiliated college.

Three (being professors or deans of faculties) to be elected by the professors.

One (a member of the teaching staff) to be elected by the teaching staff other than the professors.

Two to be elected by the undergraduates, but not to include any member of the teaching staff or any person under the full age of 21 years.

Two to be heads of affiliated colleges, and to be appointed by co-option of the Council.

Two to be appointed by co-option of the Council.

Three—the Director of Education, the Chairman of the Council¹ of Agricultural Education, and the President of the Professorial Board—to be *ex officio* members of the Council.

The tenure of office of members of the Council is four years, but one-half of the number elected at the first election by the Convocation must retire at the end of two years, the Council determining by lot which of the members are to retire.

The Convocation consists of all graduates. It elects a Warden annually, or whenever a vacancy occurs, from its own members.

Power is given to the Convocation to submit suggestions to the Council with respect to the affairs of the University. Provision is made for the constitution of a standing committee of Convocation, consisting of the Warden of Convocation *ex officio* and not less than 40 other persons who are members of Convocation.

A University Students Loan Fund has been established to which a payment of £10,000 has been made from the Assurance Fund under the Transfer of Land Acts and a grant of £2,000 is to be made annually from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for ten years from 1st July, 1923. In addition, all moneys received in repayment with interest of loans to University students and all moneys standing to the credit of any trust fund in the Treasury in respect of loans to students made by the Treasurer of Victoria before the passing of Act No. 3285 are to be credited to the Fund. Out of this Fund loans may be made to students who are nominated by a committee of three members of the Council appointed for the purpose.

The Act of 1923 provides for an endowment of £45,000 annually from 1st July, 1923. An additional grant of £8,500 is to be made for each of the ten financial years commencing 1st July, 1923. The amount of this grant is to be expended on the maintenance within the University of a school (including a faculty) of commerce for the teaching of and conducting research in commerce and the granting of degrees or diplomas in commerce; also for teaching and conducting research in science, and the establishment and maintenance within the University of a University Extension Department.

By Royal letters patent of 14th March, 1859, it is declared that the degrees of the University of Melbourne shall be as fully recognised as those of any University in the United Kingdom. Scholarships, exhibitions, and prizes are provided in all the principal subjects, the cost being defrayed partly out of University funds and partly by private bequests. In the matter of endowment by private persons the Melbourne University does not compare favorably with other Universities. Still, the investments at present held as the result of private benefactions, together with donations which have been expended

on buildings and equipment, amount to about £304,000. Since 1853 the amount received from the Government has been £1,634,122—£407,678 for building and apparatus, £839,500 endowment under "Special Appropriation Acts" 16 Vic. 34 and 13 George 3285, and £386,944 additional endowment by annual votes of the Legislature. In addition to grants from the Government the Council derives income from the fees paid by students for lectures, examinations, certificates, and diplomas.

Examinations. The system of junior and senior public and commercial examinations was superseded in December, 1917, by examinations for Intermediate and School Leaving Certificates. Under the regulations the rights of all candidates who have passed any subject of the junior or senior public examinations are reserved. The appended table gives the results of the public examinations conducted by the University during 1924 :—

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE MELBOURNE
UNIVERSITY, 1924.

—	Number who attempted to Pass fully.	Number who Passed fully.	
		Total.	Percentage.
Examination—			
Intermediate 	4,148	1,858	44·8
Leaving 	2,418	1,053	43·5

There is included in the above, a number of candidates, in whose cases Headmasters' Certificates were accepted as wholly or partially satisfying the requirements of the examination, qualified for Certificates as follows :—Intermediate 894; Leaving 10.

Degrees. The number of degrees taken in 1924 was 619, all of which were direct, as against a total of 2,058 for the preceding five years, or an average of 412 per annum for that period. During those five years all the degrees obtained were direct and none *ad eundem*. Of the total of 9,593 degrees granted since the establishment of the University, 1,384 have been conferred on women, 1,378 of which were direct and 6 *ad eundem*. These were apportioned as follows :—336 Bachelor of Arts, 239 Master of Arts, 149 Bachelor of Medicine, 11 Doctor of Medicine, 147 Bachelor of Surgery, 19 Bachelor of Laws, 2 Master of Laws, 5 Doctor of Science, 102 Bachelor of Science, 32 Master of Science, 28 Bachelor of Music, 13 Bachelor of Dental Science, and 1 Bachelor of Agricultural Science. The following

table shows the number of degrees conferred at the University between the date of its first opening and the end of 1924—the particulars for the years 1923 and 1924 being given separately:—

DEGREES CONFERRED.

Degrees	Prior to 1923.			During 1923.			During 1924.			Total.		
	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.
Bachelor of Arts ..	1754	118	1872	133	..	133	129	..	129	2016	118	2134
Master of Arts ..	803	184	987	38	..	38	36	..	36	877	184	1061
Doctor of Letters	12	1	13	2	..	2	1	..	1	15	1	16
Bachelor of Medicine	1565	15	1580	107	..	107	131	..	131	1803	15	1818
Doctor of Medicine	257	107	364	5	..	5	14	..	14	276	107	383
Bachelor of Surgery	1496	4	1500	107	..	107	131	..	131	1734	4	1738
Master of Surgery	35	..	35	1	..	1	1	..	1	37	..	37
Bachelor of Laws	618	12	630	39	..	39	37	..	37	694	12	706
Master of Laws ..	114	3	117	10	..	10	7	..	7	131	3	134
Doctor of Laws ..	21	23	44	1	..	1	..	..	..	22	23	45
Bachelor of Civil Engineering ..	250	2	252	10	..	10	13	..	13	273	2	275
Bachelor of Mining Engineering ..	50	1	51	5	..	5	2	..	2	57	1	58
Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering	12	..	12	1	..	1	2	..	2	15	..	15
Bachelor of Electrical Engineering	19	..	19	8	..	8	8	..	8	35	..	35
Master of Engineering ..	87	..	87	5	..	5	10	..	10	102	..	102
Doctor of Engineering ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Bachelor of Science	280	5	285	52	..	52	41	..	41	373	5	378
Master of Science	106	2	108	5	..	5	7	..	7	118	2	120
Doctor of Science	†28	20	48	*1	..	*1	4	..	4	33	20	53
Bachelor of Music	32	2	34	4	..	4	2	..	2	38	2	40
Doctor of Music ..	..	2	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	3
Bachelor of Dental Science ..	222	..	222	29	..	29	32	..	32	283	..	283
Doctor of Dental Science ..	20	..	20	1	..	1	..	..	..	21	..	21
Bachelor of Veterinary Science ..	75	..	75	6	..	6	8	..	8	89	..	89
Master of Veterinary Science ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Doctor of Veterinary Science ..	10	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	10
Bachelor of Agricultural Science	32	..	32	1	..	1	3	..	3	36	..	36
Master of Agricultural Science ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1
Total ..	7900	501	8401	573	..	573	619	..	619	9092	501	9593

* Degree by special grace.

† One of these degrees was by special grace.

NOTE.—*Ad eundem* degrees have been abolished.

Students attending lectures, and undergraduates admitted.

The number of persons attending lectures has greatly increased during the past ten years, the total in 1924 having been 2,423 as compared with 1,339 in 1914, thus showing an advance of 74 per cent. A great improvement is also shown in the admission of undergraduates, the number having increased by 40 per cent. in the period mentioned. Details for the last five years are given in the following statement :—

PERSONS ADMITTED AS UNDERGRADUATES AND STUDENTS ATTENDING LECTURES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	Number of Persons Matriculated and Admitted as Undergraduates.			Number of Students Attending Lectures.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1920 ..	591	155	746	1,910	620	2,530
1921 ..	460	150	610	2,003	651	2,654
1922 ..	422	126	548	1,973	672	2,645
1923 ..	348	148	496	1,848	636	2,484
1924 ..	374	135	509	1,764	659	2,423

Of the number attending lectures in 1924—2,423—708 were students in Arts and Education, 301 in Laws, 184 in Engineering, 526 in Medicine, 244 in Science, 226 in Music, 100 in Dentistry, 37 in Agriculture, 11 in Veterinary Science, 1 in Public Health, and 72 in Architecture, and 13 were doing Science Research Work.

University finance.

A statement of receipts and expenditure for the year 1924 is given below :—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY, 1924.

—		General Account.	Other Accounts.	All Departments.
		£	£	£
Receipts—				
Government Grants ..		45,500	18,142	63,642
Lecture, Degree, Examination, and other Fees ..		55,687	17,913	73,600
Other sources		6,892	27,076	33,968
Total		108,079	63,131	171,210
Expenditure		115,261	42,440	157,701

In addition to the amounts shown above, the University received £16,884 from private benefactors, to be held in trust for scholarships and other purposes.

AFFILIATED COLLEGES.

**The
affiliated
colleges.**

The permission accorded by the "University Act of Incorporation" for the establishment of affiliated colleges has been taken advantage of by the clergy and people of the Church of England, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Roman Catholic Churches of Victoria. Large residential colleges have been built upon the sites reserved for this purpose in the northern portion of the University grounds fronting Sydney-road and College-crescent, Carlton. These colleges, which admit students without regard to their religious beliefs, maintain efficient staffs of tutors and lecturers for the teaching of the principal subjects in each of the University courses. They also provide training for the ministers of their respective denominations. In 1906 the Australian College of Dentistry was formally affiliated with the University, which obtained certain rights of supervision and control, and in return undertook to recognise the professional teaching of the College in connexion with the Degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery.

Information relating to the foundation and progress of Trinity, Ormond, and Queen's Colleges is given in the *Year-Book* for 1917-18 on pages 319 to 321.

**Trinity
College.**

This college, which was established by the Anglican Church, is open to students of all religious denominations, and the same remark applies to Janet Clarke Hall. The latter was established for the benefit of women students, and is an integral part of Trinity College. The college buildings consist of a chapel, dining hall, chemical and biological laboratories, lecture-rooms, libraries, billiard-room, and students' common-room, in addition to apartments for the Warden, tutors, and students.

The Warden of the college is J. C. V. Behan, M.A., LL.D. (Melb.), M.A., B.C.L. (Oxon.)—first Rhodes Scholar for the State of Victoria, formerly Stowell Civil Law Fellow and Dean of University College, Oxford—who is assisted by a staff of tutors and lecturers. The college holds annually, in the month of November, an examination for open scholarships and exhibitions. Prospectuses may be obtained on application to the Warden.

**Ormond
College.**

This college, which was established by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, is a residential college for students of the University of Melbourne (without restriction as to religious denomination). It has a staff of lecturers and tutors from whom the students receive the assistance they require in their University work; non-resident students are also admitted to the college classes. The work of the Theological Hall of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria is carried on in the Victoria Wing; there is an independent staff of professors and lecturers for this work. Theological students may reside in the college if they are matriculated students of the University.

The *Year-Book* for 1919-20 contained a statement of the nature of the college buildings, and reference was made to additions and alterations to the buildings. This information was amplified in subsequent issues.

The Building Debt (incurred in the recent completion of the main college building) has been very substantially reduced by the accruing of £16,000 from the Ormond Estate. It now stands at some £15,000.

The two most outstanding academic distinctions of the year have been (1) the election of Dr. G. M. Cherry to a Fellowship of Trinity College, Cambridge, (2) the appointment of Mr. E. J. Pitman, M.A., B.Sc. (resident tutor in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy), to be Professor of Mathematics in the University of Tasmania.

The Master of the College is D. K. Picken, M.A. (Cambridge, Glasgow, Melbourne), formerly Professor of Pure and Applied Mathematics in Victoria University College, Wellington, N.Z. All inquiries as to admission, scholarships, &c., should be made to him.

Queen's College. This college was founded by the Methodist Church of Victoria, and its lectures are open to non-resident as well as resident students. It is capable of accommodating about 90 students in residence. The building comprises fully equipped lecture-rooms, laboratories, library, reading-rooms, and apartments for the Master, tutors and students. It has been enlarged at a cost of some £50,000. and includes a central tower, a memorial chapel to soldiers who were connected with the Methodist Church, a new common room, a large library, and additional lecture rooms; as well as some 40 additional students' rooms. The new portion of the building was opened in March, 1923. The Master is the Rev. E. H. Sugden, M.A., B.Sc., Litt.D., and the Vice-Master, Mr. K. H. Bailey, B.C.L. (Corpus Christi Coll., Oxford).

Newman College. Newman College is built in the section of the University Reserve granted by the Government of Victoria to the Roman Catholic Church in the Act of Incorporation of 2nd October, 1882. The foundation-stone was laid by the late Archbishop of Melbourne (the Most Reverend Thomas Joseph Carr, D.D.), on 11th June, 1916. It was founded by the generosity of the Roman Catholic people of the State of Victoria, and cost nearly £70,000. The Archbishop Carr Memorial Chapel, to be erected at a cost of £20,000, will be a striking addition to the College. A separate study and a bedroom are provided for each student. There is also provision of hot and cold shower and plunge baths, a large covered-in swimming bath, a gymnasium, and billiard and recreation rooms. The library consists of more than 10,000 volumes. Lectures, demonstrations, and private tuition are given in the College with the special object of assisting students in their University work. Women students as well as men extern students are admitted to all college lectures. St. Mary's Hall, Royal Park, is the residential hall for women students of Newman

College. Students of the college enjoy the advantage of residence, instruction in the doctrine and discipline of the Roman Catholic Church, and tuition supplementary to University lectures.

All applications for information, &c., should be made to the Rector. The present Rector is the Very Rev. J. M. Murphy, S.J., M.A. He is assisted by the Rev. Dominic Kelly, S.J., M.A., the Rev. Wilfrid Ryan, S.J., M.A., F.G.S., and a staff of competent lecturers and tutors.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

University extension.

Tutorial Classes organized by the Workers' Educational Association of Victoria are conducted by the University Extension Board. The personnel of the Board, numbering 22, appointed by the University, comprises an equal number of representatives from the Workers' Educational Association and the teaching staff of the University and other persons representing the public. The Government grants a sum annually (now £2,500) for the development of Tutorial Class work. In addition to these classes, which are in operation in the city, suburbs, and country, the University Extension Board has inaugurated a system of advice by correspondence for the benefit of country students. This advice is confined to social and cultural subjects, and is not intended for those seeking to qualify for degrees. Its purpose is rather to cultivate knowledge of such subjects as will elevate the mind and fit the student the better to discharge the more social functions of his daily life and citizenship. In this connexion and also for the arranging of Extension Lectures and Vacation Schools, the Government grant is £1,500.

Professor J. A. Gunn, M.A., Ph.D., is Director of Tutorial Classes and Chairman of the University Extension Board. The Secretary to the Board is Mr. S. D. Thompson, Education Department, Melbourne.

THE STATE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

The educational system of Victoria.

The present system of "free, compulsory, and secular" education came into operation on 1st January, 1873, the Act which introduced it having been passed in the previous year. Subsequently, this Act and two amending Acts passed in 1876 and 1889 were consolidated in the *Education Act* 1890, which in turn was amended by Act No. 1777 passed in December, 1901, Act No. 2205 passed in December, 1905, Act No. 2301 passed in December, 1910, and Act No. 2330 passed in October, 1911, and is now, with its amendments, incorporated in the *Education Act* 1915, No. 2644.

Under the Act of 1872 education was made free to all willing to accept it; compulsory, in the sense that, whether they attend

or do not attend State schools, evidence must be produced that all children are educated up to a certain standard; and secular, no teacher being allowed to give other than secular instruction in any State school building. Facilities are, however, afforded to persons other than State school teachers to give religious instruction, on one or two days each week, to the children of the parents who desire that their children shall receive such instruction. In each school four hours at least are set apart during each school day for secular instruction, two of which must be before, and two after, noon.

In December, 1910, an Act of Parliament of a most comprehensive and far-reaching character was passed. It marked a most important epoch in the history of education in Victoria, and laid the foundation of a complete national system from the infants' school to the highest educational institutions in the State. Power is given in this Act for the establishment of higher elementary schools, and of secondary and technical schools of various types, the aim being to create a co-ordinated system of public education, leading through elementary schools and evening continuation classes to trade and technical schools on the one hand, or through elementary schools and high schools to the University or to higher technical schools on the other. Provision is also made for evening continuation classes, in which the education of children who have left the day school at fourteen years of age may be continued till they are seventeen years of age. Power is given to make attendance at evening continuation classes compulsory in any district proclaimed for that purpose. Education is made compulsory in the case of deaf and dumb, blind, and physically or mentally defective children between seven and sixteen years of age.

In order to provide for the due co-ordination of all branches of public education a Council of Public Education has been created, representative of the various educational and industrial interests of the State. This body, which consists of 20 members presided over by the Director of Education, reports annually to Parliament on the development of public education in Victoria and elsewhere.

Compulsory
Clauses. Parents and custodians of children not less than six nor more than fourteen years of age are required to cause such children (unless there is a "reasonable excuse") to attend a State school on every school half-day in each week. Non-attendance may be excused for any of the five following reasons:— (1) If the child is receiving efficient instruction in some other manner, and is complying with the prescribed conditions as to regularity of attendance; or (2) has been prevented from attending by sickness, reasonable fear of infection, temporary or permanent infirmity, or any unavoidable cause; or (3) has been excused by a general or particular order of the Minister; or (4) is at least thirteen years of age, and has obtained a certificate of merit as prescribed; or (5) that there is no State school within 1, 2, 2½, or 3 miles in the case of children under

seven, between seven and nine, between nine and eleven, and over eleven years of age respectively. Parents and custodians who fail to make a child attend as provided may be summoned and fined not less than 2s., nor more than 10s., for each such offence, or in default may be imprisoned for any term not exceeding three days. Attendance officers are appointed to see that the compulsory provisions are carried out.

In cases where schools are closed through low average attendance, or where, though there is no school, the number of children would warrant the Department in establishing a school, allowances are made by the Department for the conveyance of children to the nearest school. The amount of the allowance is 3d. per day for children over six and under eleven who reside between $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 miles from the nearest school, and 4d. per day for children over six and under fourteen who reside 4 miles or over from such school or, where schools have been closed, 3 miles therefrom.

School Committees. Under Act No. 2301 (now incorporated in the *Education Act 1915*, No. 2641) Boards of Advice were abolished and a School Committee for each school consisting of not more than seven persons was substituted therefor. The members of School Committees are nominated by the parents of children attending the school for which the Committee is to be appointed. The main duties of such Committees are :—(a) to exercise a general oversight over the buildings and grounds, and to report to the Minister on their condition when necessary ; (b) to carry out any necessary work referred to the Committee in connexion with maintenance or repair of or additions to buildings ; (c) to promote the beautifying and improvement of school grounds, the establishment and maintenance of school gardens and agricultural plots, the decoration of the schoolroom, and the formation of a school library and museum ; (d) to provide for the necessary cleansing and the sanitary services of the school ; (e) to visit the school from time to time ; (f) to use every endeavour to induce parents to send their children to school ; and (g) to arrange, where necessary, for suitable board and lodging at reasonable rates for teachers (especially women teachers) appointed to the school.

Free subjects. The following are the subjects in which instruction is absolutely free :—English (literature, reading, recitation, spelling, writing, composition, grammar), mathematics (arithmetic, algebra, geometry), nature knowledge (geography, science, nature-study), hygiene, history and civics, manual work (drawing, needlework, woodwork, and other occupations such as modelling in clay or plasticine, or brush drawing, or weaving with some material other than paper, for example, raffia), singing, physical training, and,

where practicable, agriculture for boys, cookery and domestic economy for girls, gymnastics, and swimming. Pupils buy their own books and material.

New Features. The course of study (issued February, 1920) contains provisions to secure a more realistic treatment than formerly of the essential subjects of school education, and a larger share of attention to the training of the hand and eye through manual instruction in various forms. The requirements from teachers of infants are also such as to secure methods of teaching in accord with the principles enunciated by Froebel, the founder of the kindergarten system and by Dr. Maria Montessori. Great activity has been displayed in the training of teachers for their work. During the past few years a large number of teachers have taken the course at the Teachers' College and the Melbourne University, and, in addition, hundreds have been instructed (especially in those subjects the method of teaching which has undergone modification recently) in special classes held in the evenings and on Saturdays at centres of population, and, on a larger scale still, during the Christmas vacations at what are called "Summer Schools." The Education Department, in collaboration with the Extension Board of the Melbourne University, held a vacation school at the University in May, 1925. It was attended by teachers and by members of the general public, and lasted for a fortnight. Probably further schools of a like nature will be held. The vacation school appears to have established itself as a successful educational experiment in Victoria. Much attention has been given to the beautifying and improvement of school grounds by the planting of trees and shrubs, and by the establishment of school gardens. One day in each year—termed Arbor Day—is specially set apart for tree-planting, and for the giving of lessons on the value of trees. The teaching of elementary agriculture is warmly encouraged by both the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture, and the subject is being dealt with in a very practical way.

Drill, swimming, school gardens, &c. There were, on 30th June, 1924, 74 woodwork centres in operation, having an attendance of 8,016 boys; and 63 cookery centres, with an attendance of 6,000 girls. Five Schools of Domestic Arts, attended by 1,000 girls, have been established. In these schools girls over twelve years of age are given, during the last two years of their school life, a training in the subjects of a comprehensive domestic arts course. At the same time their general education is continued. In addition to the instruction given in the woodwork centres woodwork is being taught to 582 boys in 54 country schools by the head teachers as one of the ordinary subjects. Swimming is taught in schools that have

the necessary facilities, the children being formed into swimming clubs, which hold annual competitions at various centres. Drill is taught in all schools. During 1912 the system of physical training approved of by the Commonwealth military authorities was introduced. Nearly every State school now has its garden and some of the school gardens are among the beauty spots of their districts. The Victorian State Schools Horticultural Society, founded in 1913, assists teachers in obtaining the best seeds, seedlings, ornamental trees, and flowering shrubs. It has a nursery of its own at Oakleigh, maintained partly by members' subscriptions (5s. yearly), and partly by a Government grant. Most of the State schools are affiliated with the Society, which sent out in 1924 to its members, at reduced rates, 24,000 packets of seeds, 105,000 seedlings, 4,000 rooted roses, 8,000 shrubs, 2,000 herbaceous plants, 1,000 climbers, 5,000 indoor pot-plants, 4,000 dahlias, and 2,000 chrysanthemums.

**Special
days.**

In addition to Arbor Day (to which reference has been made), other special days—Anzac Day, Discovery Day, Pioneers' Day, Shakespeare Day, Empire Day, and Bird Day—call for mention. The landing of the Australians and New Zealanders on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 25th April, 1915, has been commemorated in the schools each year since, on Anzac Day, by the holding of a special service, consisting of hymns and addresses together with the saluting of the flag. The schools of Victoria held a celebration of Empire Day in 1905, being among the first of the oversea Dominions to recognise the day, and have since enthusiastically kept it in remembrance year by year. The first sighting of Australia by Captain Cook in April, 1770, is commemorated on Discovery Day, though this is merging into Pioneers' Day, when honour is paid not only to explorers and discoverers but also to the early settlers—the path-finders in general. The date chosen for Pioneers' Day was the 19th of November, the day on which Edward Henty landed on the shores of Portland Bay to establish a pastoral and agricultural settlement in 1834. On Shakespeare Day, the teachers and children commemorate the birth of Shakespeare by readings from his works, and the recital and acting of selected passages. Bird Day has for its object the protection of native birds and their eggs. On that day lessons are given on bird life, and, where possible, bird-observing excursions are made. Over 61,000 of the older school children have joined the "Gould League of Bird Lovers," which was established for the protection of bird life.

**Patriotic
Fund.**

During the Great War the teachers and children in the State schools, with the aid of departmental officers, school committees, and parents, were instrumental in raising a sum of £440,000 for the Department's War Relief Fund. Particulars are given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 333 and 334. The fund was closed in 1920. At the end of 1922, the executive committee

of the fund transferred the balance of £84,910 to a body of seven trustees, who were empowered by the deed of trust to expend the money, as occasion arose, for the benefit of seriously disabled soldiers and their dependants. The sum of £40,000 was invested to form an old-age fund; £25,000 was set aside as a housing fund, and the remaining £20,000 is being used from time to time for the cases that stand in need of immediate assistance.

Schools have taken up the Junior Red Cross movement **Social Service.** in order to continue the training afforded by the Young Workers' Patriotic Guild, in which pupils earned money during the war period and gave it to the War Relief Fund. Members of the Junior Red Cross branches are assisting their local charities or helping local cases of indigence in their neighbourhood.

A widespread movement is being fostered for the carry- **League of Young Gardeners.** ing out of "home projects," as has been done in the United States of America. The idea is to link school, home, and farm in one common interest. The growing of sugar-beet, the culture of the potato, the selection of wheat, and the rearing of poultry and stock have engaged the united attention of children, teachers, and parents in various Victorian school districts.

A scheme for the utilization of waste lands by the **School forestry.** establishment of school plantations of hardwood and softwood trees was inaugurated in 1923. Areas up to 50 acres in extent in the vicinity of State schools have been reserved for the purpose. These are vested in local trustees, are fenced by voluntary local effort, and are planted by the children at the rate of about two acres per year. When the trees reach maturity, the revenue derived from the sale of the timber will be used by the trust for the benefit of the school concerned. Monetary gains will accrue, and further gains also—a training in practical forestry, and a training in unselfish social service. By the end of June, 1925, there had been established 87 of these school plantations, and applications were being considered for 25 more.

The need for the medical inspection of school children **Medical inspection.** has received widespread recognition, and the Victorian Education Department has followed the lead of progressive countries by appointing eight medical inspectors. The medical officers devote their whole time to investigating the hygienic condition of school premises and the physical and mental condition of the pupils, and to giving instruction to teachers.

A dental clinic has been established and is under the **Dental Clinic.** charge of four dental officers. Great service is being rendered by this clinic.

Under the provisions of Act No. 3059, assented to **Teachers' remuneration and classification.** on 14th September, 1920, male teachers are divided into five and female teachers into four classes, there being no female teachers in the first class. The salaries of males, excluding junior teachers, range from £156 to £600, and those

of females, excluding junior teachers and sewing mistresses, range from £120 to £420. In addition to the head and assistant teachers, there are three classes of junior teachers, with salaries ranging for males from £60 to £84 and for females from £50 to £70. An annual allowance of £12 (in addition to salary) is paid to junior teachers who have passed the Intermediate Examination of the University of Melbourne, and of £24 to those who have passed the Leaving Examination. Sewing mistresses receive £60 yearly. Junior Teachers residing away from home are paid an allowance sufficient to bring total emolument to £84 per annum.

The following statement shows the progress as regards State schools, teachers, and scholars since 1872. The figures relating to the number of schools and teachers refer to 30th June for all years to 1921, and to 31st December for the years 1922 and 1923. Those relating to the number of scholars refer to the financial year ended 30th June, for the eight years ended 1916-17; the reference is to 31st December and the years ended on that date respectively for returns for years prior to 1901-2 and for the years 1917 to 1923 :—

STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS, ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE, 1872 TO 1923.

Year.	Number of Schools at end of Year.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Scholars.		
			Enrolled during the Year.	In Average Attendance.	Distinct. Children (estimated).
1872	1,049	2,416	136,055	68,456	113,197
1880	1,810	4,215	229,723	119,520	195,736
1890	2,170	4,708	250,097	133,768	213,886
1900	1,948	4,977	243,667	147,020	218,240
1909-10 ..	2,036	4,957	235,042	145,968	206,263
1910-11 ..	2,059	5,087	234,766	146,464	204,086
1911-12 ..	2,093	5,533	238,111	151,247	205,695
1912-13 ..	2,127	5,683	241,042	152,600	209,172
1913-14 ..	2,175	5,710	246,447	158,213	214,986
1914-15 ..	2,227	6,085	250,264	160,885	218,427
1915-16 ..	2,225	6,194	257,726	161,632	221,777
1916-17 ..	2,202	6,275	254,033	161,034	221,202
1917 (31st Dec.)	2,236	6,455	†214,048	†161,574	†186,523
1918	2,272	6,570	240,664	164,350	208,861
1919	2,280	6,518	235,292	160,345	207,633
1920	2,333	6,637	247,337	158,554	213,738
1921	2,334	6,784	247,204	167,154	216,037
1922	2,405	6,789	248,882	171,129	216,329
1923	2,460	*6,919	253,307	167,638	218,835

* In addition to these teachers, 376 were temporarily employed on 31st December, 1923.

† These are the figures for the *six months* ended 31st December, 1917; hence the apparent falling off in "number enrolled" as compared with the number for the preceding year. Had the figures been compiled to June, 1918, probably the new number would have been greater, not less than that of the previous year. An increase in the same ratio as the increase in average attendance would fix the number at 255,280.

**Ages of State
school scholars.**

The following table shows the number and percentage of children attending State primary schools, below, at, and above the school age (6 and under 14), during the year ended 31st December, 1923 :—

AGES OF STATE SCHOOL SCHOLARS, 1923.

Ages.	Net Enrolment of Children Attending—					
	Day Schools.		Night Schools.		Total.	
	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.
Under 6 years ...	12,936	5·9	...	...	12,936	5·9
6 to 14 „ ...	193,033	88·2	...	...	193,033	88·2
14 years and upwards ...	12,843	5·9	23	100·0	12,866	5·9
Total ...	218,812	100·0	23	100·0	218,835	100·0

REGISTRATION OF TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS.

**Registration
of teachers
and schools.**

By Act No. 2013, passed in 1905, all private schools and teachers of private schools had to be registered by the Teachers and Schools Registration Board. This Board consisted of three representatives of the Education Department, four of non-State schools, two of the University, and one of State-aided technical schools. Its chief functions were to see (1) that only qualified persons were employed in private schools; and (2) that private schools met requirements in hygienic matters. Under the provisions of Act No. 2301, passed in December, 1910, the Teachers and Schools Registration Board was abolished, and its duties were taken over by the Council of Public Education.

**Registered
schools, 1872
to 1924.**

The appended statement shows the number of registered schools, of instructors in same, and of individual scholars in attendance in 1872, the year before the adoption

* The latest statistics published by the Education Department of Victoria (*vide* "Report of the Minister of Public Instruction for the year 1923-24") are for the period ended 31st December, 1923.

of the present secular system, and in a number of subsequent years, including the latest year for which particulars are available :—

**REGISTERED SCHOOLS AND ATTENDANCE,
1872 TO 1924.**

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Individual Scholars.
1872 	888	1,841	24,781
1880 " 	643	1,516	28,134
1890 " 	791	2,037	40,181
1900 	884	2,348	48,483
1909-10 	641	2,067	49,964
1914-15 	509	1,879	52,638
1915-16 	495	1,909	57,400
1916-17 	495	1,970	56,193
1917-18 	499	2,002	58,366
1918 (31st December) 	493	1,903	56,996
1919 " 	486	1,991	56,684
1920 " 	489	1,950	59,314
1921 " 	486	2,063	59,922
1922 " 	486	2,109	60,105
1923 " " ...	489	2,154	64,195
1924 " 	486	2,154	63,105

**Scholars
attending
State and
registered
schools.**

On comparing the number of scholars with the number attending schools, it is seen that 22 per cent. of the scholars during 1923 attended registered schools, and that the balance, 78 per cent., attended State primary and secondary schools.

THE TRAINING OF TEACHERS.

**Teachers'
College.**

In recent years the training of teachers for the State Department has been much modified and altered. Formerly, young people who had completed the State School course of education were employed as pupil teachers to teach the whole of each day, and during their three or four years' course they received

instruction, usually in the mornings or in the late afternoons, from the head masters and other qualified teachers of the staff. Now such young persons enter one or other of the High Schools throughout the State, where they stay for at least two years, receiving the groundwork of a good secondary education. The rules relating to entrance into the Service as junior teachers provide that candidates must be not less than 16 years of age and must hold the School Intermediate Certificate or an approved equivalent or higher qualification. Where a vacancy for a junior teacher exists, and there is no candidate qualified in accordance with the foregoing conditions, the Director may appoint the best qualified candidate, if necessary by competitive examination. Teachers can, in the course of a few years after being appointed, possess second class and first class certificates, and be enrolled as fully qualified teachers. The more ambitious of the intending teachers remain at the High Schools for at least three years, when they pass the Leaving Certificate examination. In some cases they remain a year longer in order to qualify themselves to enter for the course of training for Secondary Teachers. Intending teachers who wish to get higher certificates and to receive the best course of training available enter the Teachers' College. This is situated in a corner of the University Grounds, Carlton, and is at the present time in close connexion with the University.

There are three full courses of training at the Teachers' College. The first of these is for Kindergarten or Infant Teachers, the second for Primary Teachers, and the third for Secondary Teachers. In the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 338 to 340, particulars are given of the nature of the work carried on at the College, the qualifications which must be possessed by students desiring admission thereto, the fees payable, &c. The courses are open to students who intend to teach in Private Schools.

DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS.

District High Schools. The Education Act of 1910 authorized the establishment of these schools in order to open a broad highway, at little or no cost to the parents of the pupils, leading from the elementary schools to the technical schools and the University. A further important function of these institutions is to give the necessary preliminary education to boys and girls intending to take up teaching. Under the scheme of training now in operation aspirants for the teaching profession are expected during the period spent at a district high school to complete their preliminary studies. Any pupil who has satisfactorily completed the work of Grade VI. in an elementary school is qualified for admission to a district high school. The course of study lasts for six years in the case of pupils who enter from the sixth grade of the elementary school after obtaining the qualifying certificate, or for four or five years in the case of those who enter from the eighth grade after completing the course of the elementary school. Winners of Government scholarships are also trained at these schools, but parents are at

liberty to select an approved secondary school for the education of their boys and girls. Besides the day classes there are formed at a few of the district high schools evening classes for the instruction of teachers living in the vicinity, and correspondence classes for those residing at a distance. Eight of the District High Schools are specially equipped for the teaching of agriculture in addition to providing other courses of secondary education. There are district high schools at Ararat, Bacchus Marsh, Bairnsdale, Ballarat,* Benalla, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Coburg, Colac,* Dandenong, Echuca, Essendon, Frankston, Geelong, Hamilton, Horsham, Kerang, Kyneton, Leon-gatha,* Maryborough, Melbourne, Mildura,* Mordialloc-Carrum, Sale,* Shepparton,* St. Arnaud, Stawell, University (Carlton), Wangaratta,* Warracknabeal, Warragul,* Warrnambool, and Williams-town. The schools the names of which are asterisked are equipped with farms.

During the term ended 31st December, 1923, there were in attendance at these schools 7,203 pupils, of whom 3,715 were boys and 3,488 were girls. Education is free up to the age of fourteen years, after which a fee of £6 per annum is charged. Travelling expenses (up to £5 per annum) are provided for children living beyond four miles from the school, if the parents' income does not exceed £150 per annum. In special cases the Department has power to make grants in aid of school requisites up to £2 per annum, and of the cost of maintenance up to £26 per annum, to enable pupils to continue their studies at district high schools and higher elementary schools.

For the practical part of the work of training secondary teachers the institution now known as the University High School was opened in a State building in 1910, and the school was specially staffed by lecturers in methods of teaching in addition to the teachers of the ordinary form subjects of secondary schools. The practical training in teaching received at this school is part of what is prescribed for the course for the Diploma of Education at the Melbourne University. In its management of the school the Department is aided by an advisory committee from the Faculty of Arts of the University.

**University
High School.**

HIGHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

**Higher
Elementary
Schools and
Classes.**

On 31st December, 1923, there were forty-two higher elementary schools—at Beechworth, Birchip, Boort, Bright, Camperdown, Casterton, Charlton, Chiltern, Clunes, Corryong, Daylesford, Dimboola, Donald, Euroa, Foster, Hampton, Heathcote, Inglewood, Korumburra, Kyabram, Lilydale, Maffra, Mirboo North, Murtoa, Nathalia, Nhill, Orbost, Portarlington, Portland, Rainbow, Rochester, Rushworth, Rutherglen, Sea Lake, Seymour, Swan Hill, Traralgon, Warracknabeal, Werribee, Yarram, Yarrawonga, and Yea. During the term ended 31st December, 1923, there were in attendance at these schools 3,926 pupils, of whom 2,009 were boys and 1,917 were girls. Education in the higher elementary

schools is free throughout the course, which extends over two or four years.

There were also twenty-two schools, twelve in the metropolitan area and four in urban and six in country centres—known as “Central” schools—in which a preparatory course of secondary education was provided. These were attended by 3,172 pupils in 1923.

The purpose of the district high school and the higher elementary school is to provide the essentials of a good general education for pupils who have completed the work of the sixth grade in elementary schools, and are likely to profit by a further course of study, and to give them, in the third and fourth years, a specialized training which will help to prepare them for their several careers in life. These schools thus form a link between the elementary school and technical institutions, or the University, or vocations that may be followed by pupils upon the completion of the course of study.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ALLOWANCES TO PUPILS.

The Minister of Public Instruction awarded scholarships at the beginning of 1925 as under :—

No. and Kind.	Age Requirement of Candidates	Period of Tenure.	Annual Value.
100 Junior scholarships open to candidates attending state and registered schools	Under 14½ years	4 years	Free tuition at a district high school and £4 for school requisites, or £12 towards tuition fees and school requisites at an approved registered secondary school; also, in certain cases, up to £26 for maintenance or up to £5 for transit.
44 Senior scholarships open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	About 18 years	3-6 years	£40 towards expense of a course at the University.
60 Teaching scholarships open to candidates attending State and registered schools	14-17 years	3 years	As for Junior scholarships.
50 Junior technical scholarships open to candidates attending State and registered schools	Under 14 years	3 years	Free tuition at a junior technical school and £4 for school requisites; also, in certain cases, up to £26 for maintenance or £5 for transit.
55 Senior technical scholarships open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	16-18 years	3-5 years	Free tuition for full length of approved courses at technical schools; also £30 for day students and £10 for evening students.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ALLOWANCES TO PUPILS—*continued.*

No. and Kind.	Age Requirement of Candidates	Period of Tenure.	Annual Value.
20 Free Places in agriculture, mining, or veterinary science at University open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	About 18 years	4-5 years	Exemption from payment of fees for lectures and examinations at University; also, in special cases, an allowance up to £50 for maintenance.
50 Free Places in any course other than dental science at the University open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	About 18 years	3-6 years	
5 Free Places in an approved course at the University open to officers (other than teachers) in the employment of the Government of Victoria	Under 25 years.	3-4 years	
15 Free Places in the course for Arts, Commerce, Science or Education at the University open to certificated teachers of the Education Department	..	3 years	Exemption from payment of fees for lectures and examinations at University, and the necessary leave of absence.

In addition to these scholarships, there is a scheme whereby free tuition and allowances for school requisites up to £2 per annum and for maintenance up to £26 per annum or for transit up to £5 per annum may be granted to enable pupils who show special capacity and promise, and whose parents are in necessitous circumstances, to attend district high schools, higher elementary schools, schools of domestic arts, central schools, central classes and technical schools. Free tuition is allowed also to children of deceased or totally and permanently incapacitated sailors and soldiers attending district high schools or technical schools.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN STATE SCHOOLS.

Religious Instruction in State Schools. At the request of the Joint Council for Religious Instruction in Day Schools, Victoria, the Education Department recently sent out circulars to all the head teachers, and, as a result, the Council has been able to tabulate the following information from the answers received :—

Number of schools which returned answers to circular	2,460
Number of schools receiving religious instruction ..	922
Number of schools not receiving religious instruction	1,538
(These are chiefly outlying schools of low attendance. The large technical schools are also included.)	
Number of instructors engaged	2,181
Number of scholars enrolled for religious instruction	122,598
Net enrolment for the 2,460 schools	218,835

Information relating to Melbourne and suburbs and the rest of Victoria is given below. The area included in Melbourne and suburbs is a radius of ten miles from the Elizabeth-street Post Office, and includes a few schools outside that radius, as far as Croydon and Mordialloc.

MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS.

Number of schools in which religious instruction is given	185
Number of instructors engaged	827
Number of pupils receiving religious instruction ..	64,322

REST OF VICTORIA.

Number of schools in which religious instruction is given	764
Number of instructors engaged	1,354
Pupils receiving religious instruction	58,276

The objective of the Joint Council is to obtain more instructors for those schools in the metropolis where the staffs are weak, and for the country schools where religious instruction is not given.

STANDARD OF EDUCATION.

The number of marriages celebrated in 1924 was 13,296, and there were only 15 men and 11 women who showed their want of elementary education by signing the marriage register with a mark instead of in writing. This indicates a very high elementary standard of education in this State, which, in this respect, occupies the highest position in Australasia.

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

The whole of the technical schools in the State, prior to 1910, were under the control of local councils. Act No. 2301, passed in that year, provided for the schools being brought under the control of the Minister of Public Instruction. The Education Department, in all cases, retains the general direction of technical education. Regulations are issued defining the powers of the councils, allotting the Government grants, and providing for the instruction and examination of the students. The number of technical schools receiving aid from the State on 31st December, 1924, was 26.

The former lack of organized method in preparing pupils for courses in technical schools largely neutralized the efforts of the instructors in these institutions. In order to overcome this difficulty, junior or preparatory technical schools have been established in connexion with all the higher technical schools. These schools offer a course of two or three years' instruction for boys between the ages of twelve and a half and fifteen years. Instruction in English subjects is carried on in conjunction with mathematics and the more technical subjects. The curriculum is designed to qualify for entrance to the senior schools. A large majority of the students doing full day diploma courses come from the junior technical schools, while nearly all the effective trade students attending evening classes are drawn from that source.

The aim of the Victorian technical schools is to provide vocational courses of training in industrial subjects, and, as far as possible, to provide for the training of the expert technologist. The various branches of engineering and its subdivisions, mining, metallurgy, technical and agricultural chemistry, subjects connected with the building trades (including architecture) and with other trades, applied art, commercial subjects and those connected with household economy are included in their syllabuses. Trade courses correspond to the period of apprenticeship, which extends over five years.

The larger technical schools, such as the Working Men's College, the Swinburne Technical College, and the Ballarat and Bendigo Schools of Mines, have an extensive curriculum embracing the most important industrial subjects. Of the smaller schools, some in country districts have courses in mining,

metallurgy, and engineering subjects as well as courses in drawing and applied art work, while in a few schools the subjects taught are mainly drawing and art work. The only technical schools for women's industries are the College of Domestic Economy and the girls' junior technical departments in the Swinburne, Ballarat, Prahran, Box Hill, and Brighton Schools.

The fees per term range from 10s. per subject per annum to £35 per course of subjects per annum.

The following is a statement of the Government expenditure on each technical school during the five years ended 1923-24:—

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON SCHOOLS OF MINES AND
TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Name.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£	£	£
Ararat .. .. .	..	143	154	130	129
Bairnsdale	2,561	4,750	4,237	3,246	3,376
Ballarat	11,923	18,943	18,463	17,883	18,181
Beechworth	797	1,106	1,119	1,079	1,205
Bendigo	7,317	9,982	11,217	11,398	12,222
Box Hill .. .. .	..	..	..	..	6,706
Brighton	833	5,967	10,558	16,883	16,169
Brunswick	5,603	13,405	13,100	8,367	8,590
Castlemaine	3,249	4,902	4,823	5,066	5,755
Caulfield .. .. .	..	4,173	13,232	11,911	8,832
College of Domestic Economy ..	1,655	2,356	2,581	2,461	2,943
Collingwood	6,291	7,264	8,378	9,578	30,179
Daylesford	1,549	1,997	2,041	2,083	2,466
Echuca	1,697	2,650	2,411	2,586	2,607
Footscray	6,438	9,740	10,698	12,037	13,343
Geelong (Gordon Tech. Col.) ..	5,116	7,259	11,133	8,725	10,019
Glenferrie (Swinburne Tech. Col.)	10,216	13,963	15,122	16,675	21,728
Horsham	700	926	1,199	511	6
Maryborough	2,964	3,275	4,919	5,233	5,604
Melbourne (Working Men's Col.)	19,258	26,782	29,013	33,956	33,434
Prahran	5,272	6,474	6,778	8,073	8,052
Sale	1,690	2,405	2,712	2,909	2,648
South Melbourne	5,053	7,533	8,734	9,020	9,014
Stawell	2,010	2,742	2,835	2,895	3,129
Sunshine	1,940	3,341	2,189	2,726	3,969
Warrnambool	2,646	3,842	4,661	4,806	5,433
West Melbourne	8,226	10,243	11,463	12,055	14,006
Wonthaggi	932	3,164	10,262	5,027	4,409
Other votes for technical schools	9,860	10,579	12,604	3,695	3,741
Miscellaneous	1,698	2,309	2,625	2,970	3,070
Total	127,494	192,215	229,261	223,978	260,965

College of
Dentistry and
Pharmacy.

Particulars relating to the Australian College of Dentistry and the Melbourne College of Pharmacy are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 516 to 519.

THE WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE, MELBOURNE.

Working
Men's
College,
Melbourne.

The Working Men's College is a technical institution and school of mines, founded in 1887. It is open to all classes and both sexes, and supplies the higher technical instruction.

Its revenue is obtained from students' fees, supplemented by a Government grant. There are both day and evening courses.

All fees are payable in advance, and no refund is allowed. Examinations are held in November, and entrance to these examinations is free to students of the college attending the classes in which they present themselves for examination, provided they have made the necessary attendances, and completed sufficient Laboratory Work. The year is divided into three terms.

Fees Payable.

Full Day Courses.					Fee.		
					£	s.	d.
Preparatory School for Diploma Courses—							
First year	...	...	...	...	3	15	0 per term
Second year	...	...	...	...	4	7	6 "
Diploma Courses—Mechanical, Electrical, Municipal, Marine, and Mining Engineering—							
First year	...	...	...	...	5	10	0 "
Second year	...	...	...	...	6	15	0 "
Third year	...	...	...	...	8	0	0 "
Diploma Course—Metallurgy—							
First year	...	...	...	...	5	10	0 "
Second year	...	...	...	...	6	15	0 "
Third year	...	...	...	...	8	0	0 "
Diploma Courses—Applied Chemistry—							
First year	...	...	...	...	5	10	0 "
Second year	...	...	...	...	6	15	0 "
Third year (Inorganic Diploma)	...	...	...	...	8	0	0 "
Fourth year (Organic Diploma)	...	...	...	...	3	0	0 "
Carpentry Apprenticeship Course	...	...	...	...	3	15	0 "
Motor Mechanics Course—							
First year	...	...	...	...	7	0	0 "
Second year	...	...	...	...	7	0	0 "
Woolsorting	...	...	...	...	8	0	0 "
Art Course, Full Time	...	...	...	...	3	15	0 "
" " Five Half-Days	...	...	...	...	3	0	0 "
Dressmaking, Five Half-Days	...	...	...	...	3	0	0 "
Millinery, Five Half-Days	...	...	...	...	3	0	0 "

Evening Classes.				Fee.
Arithmetic	Various amounts ranging from 10s. upwards per term
Algebra	...	...	...
Geometry	...	...	...
Trigonometry	...	...	...
Graphical Algebra and Analytical Geometry	...	...	...
Differential and Integral Calculus	...	...	...
Practical Geometry	...	...	...
Dressmaking	...	...	...
Millinery	...	...	...
Applied Mechanics	...	...	...
Applied Electricity	...	...	...
Heat Engines	...	...	...
Architecture	...	...	...
Building Construction	...	...	...
Surveying	...	...	...
Civil Engineering	...	...	...
Hydraulics	...	...	...
Chemistry	...	...	...
Assaying	...	...	...
Metallurgy	...	...	...
Engineering Drawing	...	...	...
Science, Trade, Commercial, Mining, and numerous other Subjects	...	...	...
Evening Art and Applied Art Courses (Drawing, Design, Modelling, &c.)	30s. per term.
Preliminary Year for Courses for Experts' Certificates	35s. per term.
Courses for Experts' Certificates	From 40s. per term.

Special prizes are awarded to students annually. There is a prize to the best student in each year of the day courses, and to the best student in each of the evening classes. The Magee prize, of the annual value of £3, is awarded to the student who obtains highest marks at examination in the work of the senior mechanical drawing class. The Sir George Verdon prize, which is of an annual value equal to the interest on the amount of the donor's endowment of £210, is awarded for excellence of design and workmanship in the technical or trade subject selected by the council at the beginning of each year. The Royal Victorian Institute of Architects awards prizes in the architecture and building construction classes, the Green Field Tap and Die Corporation gives a set of stocks and dies to the best student in fitting and turning, and Messrs Brown and Sharp give a set of fitter's tools to the best student in the second grade fitting and turning class, and another to the best student in milling. Several employers donate prizes, notably in the Printing and Plumbing trades.

The Beazley Bequest Scholarships, of which there are thirty of the value of £8 10s., are awarded annually for trade subjects. The following scholarships cover five years' free instruction in the day courses:—The Danks (2), The Arnot, and The Colin Thompson. Twenty entrance scholarships, value £24 each, are awarded annually to the preparatory school for Day Courses; five, value £11 each, are awarded to the carpentry apprenticeship course of one year, and twenty-five, value £4 to £8, to the commercial day classes. There are three scholarships available to students in the Preparatory School and tenable at the Diploma Courses, value £60 each. There are also numerous Government Scholarships available to students and tenable at the College or the University.

The receipts from the Government in 1924 amounted to £30,950.

About 180 classes are held in the following departments:—Commercial, Elocution and Music, Mathematics, Engineering and Science, Architecture, Chemistry, Mining and Metallurgy, Art and Applied Art, Rural Industries, and Trade Courses. The work is divided into—(1) day courses, and (2) evening courses and classes. In the day school students are prepared for the higher positions of industrial life in the following complete courses:—(1) Mechanical Engineering, (2) Electrical Engineering, (3) Civil Engineering, (4) Marine Engineering, (5) Mining Engineering, (6) Metallurgy, and (7) Applied Chemistry. To students who complete any of the above courses, pass the necessary examinations, and produce evidence of having obtained twelve months' approved practical experience, the Diploma of "Associateship" of the College is issued.

In the Applied Art School classes are held in the following subjects:—Drawing, Design, Modelling, Architecture, Building Construction, Geometrical Drawing, Practical Plane and Solid Geometry, Perspective, Blackboard Drawing, Still Life Painting, Anatomy, Figure Drawing, Figure Composition, Book Illustration, Lettering, Illuminating, Stencilling, Leather Embossing, Decorative Metalwork, Silver-smithing, Jewellery, Engraving, Die Sinking, Lead Glazing, Stained Glass, Plaster Casting, Signwriting, Ticket Writing, Lithography, Process Engraving, Textile Design and Weaving, Dress-making, Millinery, and Plain and Decorative Needlework.

In the evening school the following courses for certificates are in operation:—Assayers, geologists, electrical engineers, civil engineers (municipal and hydraulic), mechanical and marine engineers, land surveyors, mechanical draughtsmen, public analysts, architects, carpenters, printers, signwriters and house decorators, plumbers, coach builders, and motor car body makers. The following figures give an indication of the comparative amount of work done at the College during the years 1920 to 1924:—

STUDENTS AT WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE, 1920 TO 1924.

—	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Students enrolled—					
Average per term	2,634*	2,604*	2,465*	2,370*	2,511*
Males over 21	449	586	533	577	571
„ under 21—Apprentices ..	778	601	634	592	605
„ „ Others	1,095	1,109	1,025	946	1,059
Females	312	308	273	255	276
Fees received during the year ..	£11,839†	£9,263†	£11,354†	£11,504†	£11,891†
Average fee per student	124s. 0d.	96s. 3d.	99s. 7d.	99s. 2d.	93s. 10d.
Number of classes	173	180	176	175	177
„ instructors	97	115	117	116	128
Salaries paid instructors	£20,027	£24,390	£25,629	£25,764	£27,241

* In addition, over 370 students were receiving vocational training for the Repatriation Department during 1920, 230 in 1921, and 200 in 1922.

† This does not include fees for correspondence courses, which amounted to £4,461 in 1920, £1,752 in 1921, £797 in 1922, £539 in 1923, and £1,034 in 1924. The subjects taught by correspondence are those included in the college curriculum.

LIBRARIES.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF VICTORIA.

Public Library of Victoria. The buildings of the Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery of Victoria cost £326,946. The funds were provided by the Government, as also were further moneys expended on maintenance (including salaries) and amounting, with the sum just named, to a total of £1,713,045 at the end of 1924. The Library consists of three distinct sections, viz. :—the Reference Library, the Lending Library, and the Country Lending Library. In regard to the Reference Library, the librarian reports that 6,050 volumes were purchased, 2,520 volumes presented, 321 volumes obtained under the "Copyright Act," and 47,871 newspapers added to the Library during the year 1924. At the end of that year the Reference Library contained 307,325 volumes. It is open to the public without payment on week days (Christmas Day and Good Friday excepted) between the hours of 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. The Lending Branch, which is also free to the public, issued 118,116 volumes during 1924, the number of persons to whom the books were lent being 8,264. The number of volumes in the Lending Library at the end of the year mentioned was 42,314, of which 2,256 were added during the year.

National Gallery. The National Gallery at the end of 1924 contained 20,560 works of art, viz., 677 oil paintings, 5,370 objects of art, statuary, &c., and 14,513 water colour drawings, engravings, photographs, &c. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily on week days (Christmas Day and Good Friday excepted), and on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The school of painting in connexion with the institution was attended during the year by 24 students, and the school of drawing by 128 students. The income from the Felton bequest amounted to £24,000, which is available for expenditure on paintings, statuary, and other works of art.

Industrial Museum. The Industrial and Technological Museum occupies the whole of the first floor front of the institution. At the end of 1924 it contained more than 9,300 exhibits.

National Museum. The collection in the National Museum, formerly kept in a building situated on the grounds of the Melbourne University, is now located in the Public Library Buildings. It comprises natural history, geology, and ethnology. The National Museum is open to the public free of charge on all week days throughout the year, except Thursdays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. In 1924 the expenditure on specimens, furniture, materials, &c., was £764.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES.

**Patent
Office
Library.**

There is a free library attached to the Commonwealth Department of Patents, which contains over 10,000 volumes, including the Patents Acts, official Gazettes and patents specifications of the principal countries of the world, and a comprehensive selection of technical works. The library is open to the public on each week day, except Saturday, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4.30 p.m., and on Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon.

**Supreme
Court
Library.**

The Supreme Court Library at Melbourne has nineteen branches in the assize towns. It is free to members of the legal profession between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., except on Saturdays, when it closes at noon. It is supported by fees paid under Acts of Parliament and Rules of Court for the admission of barristers and solicitors.

OTHER LIBRARIES.

**Free
Libraries.**

Most of the suburban and country libraries receive Government aid—the amount granted in 1923-1924 having been £3,000. Of these libraries 523 furnished returns in 1924, which show that they possessed 958,110 volumes, and received £102,375 in revenue, that the total expenditure was £91,902—£12,411 on books, &c., and £79,491 on maintenance—and that 2,326,320 visits were paid to the 427 institutions which kept records of the attendances of visitors.

EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.

**Exhibition
Buildings,
Aquarium,
and Museum.**

The Exhibition Buildings, which are situated in the Carlton Gardens, Melbourne, when first opened for the purpose of an exhibition in October, 1880, occupied a total space of 907,400 square feet. The original cost of the permanent structure, temporary annexes, &c., was £246,365. After the close of the exhibition, on 30th April, 1881, the annexes were removed, and the permanent building was vested in trustees. Another exhibition was opened in the building on 1st August, 1888, to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the first Australian Colony. On that occasion a further sum of £262,954 was expended. At the close of the exhibition there was realized from the sale of various materials, including temporary annexes, a sum of £56,904.

The receipts for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1924, amounted to £7,555, consisting of rents, £4,311, aquarium receipts, £2,702, and other receipts, £542. The expenditure totalled £9,169, viz.:—£3,191, expenses of the aquarium; and £5,978 for general maintenance, improvements to buildings, insurance and sundry expenses. The deposits and balances in banks to the credit of the trust at 30th June, 1924, amounted to £398.

THE MELBOURNE BOTANIC GARDEN.

Botanic Garden. The Melbourne Botanic Garden, which was established over 70 years ago, is situated on the south side of the Yarra, at a distance of about one mile from the city. The area of the garden proper is 102 acres, and includes lakes, lawns, groups, plantations, conservatories, &c. Associated with the Botanic Garden are the grounds of Government House, the Domain, the Alexandra Park and Gardens, and the Queen Victoria Gardens. The Botanic Garden and the Domain are administered by the Lands Department, the Government House Grounds temporarily by the Federal Government, and Alexandra Park and Queen Victoria Gardens solely by the Melbourne City Council. The whole reservation, probably the most valuable asset of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, embraces an area of approximately 320 acres, and, in addition to the divisions mentioned above, includes the grounds and buildings of the Observatory and the National Herbarium.

Records of the commencement of the Gardens and their progress until 1908 are to be found in the *Descriptive Guide to the Botanic Gardens*, published by the Government Printer in that year, and obtainable at a price of 6d. A reference to some of the principal features appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916–17, pages 525 to 527.

The Gardens are open to the public daily from 7 a.m. in summer and 7.30 a.m. in winter, and are closed at sunset.

ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL AND ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY.

Royal Zoological and Acclimatisation Gardens. The gardens of the Royal Zoological and Acclimatisation Society of Victoria are situated in the centre of Royal Park, on the northern side of the city, nearly 2 miles distant from the Elizabeth Street Post Office, and can be reached by tramcars starting every few minutes from the lower end of Elizabeth-street, or by electric train to Royal Park Station. The electric

tramway from West Brunswick, through Royal Park, is now completed, and it provides another facility for reaching the Gardens.

The ground enclosed contains 50 acres, rather more than half of which is laid out as a Zoological garden and the rest in deer paddocks. Most of the large animals of the world, such as the hippopotamus, giraffe, Indian elephant, &c., are exhibited there, as well as many native animals. The Patron of the Society is His Excellency the State Governor, and the Director is Mr. A. Wilkie.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

A brief statement of the history of this society and of the work carried on by it appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 528 and 529. The membership subscription is 10s. per annum. Two shows are held each year, one in the autumn and one in spring. The members' monthly meeting is held on the second Thursday of each month.

The business of the society is vested in a committee, consisting of the president, four vice-presidents (two amateur and two professional), an honorary treasurer, and sixteen members (eight amateurs and eight professionals), the administrative work being conducted by the secretary, Mr. A. J. Whitcher, "Hiawatha," 6 Pine-street, Hawthorn.

Other societies.

There are about 40 other horticultural societies in the State, situated at Ballarat, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Kyneton, Mildura, Terang, Traralgon, and other centres.

PUBLIC RESERVES.

Public reserves.

Greater Melbourne is amply supplied with public reserves and parks, the total area devoted to such purposes having been 6,222½ acres in 1924. A list of the public reserves in 1917, together with a statement of their respective areas, appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 529 to 533.

A further statement showing the number and area of reserves in 17 of the largest towns outside Melbourne was given on page 533 of the same volume.

At the end of 1924 there were in the State, according to returns received, 3,297 regular churches and chapels, and 1,667 other buildings where religious services were held—a total of 4,964 places of public worship—and these were attended by 2,304 regular clergymen. The following statement contains particulars in regard to the different denominations :—

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS, 1924.

Denominations.	Number of Clergy, Ministers, &c.	Buildings used for Public Worship.		
		Churches and Chapels.	Other Buildings.	Total.
Protestant Churches—				
Church of England ..	438	730	594	1,324
Presbyterian Church of Victoria	295	625	317	942
Free Presbyterian ..	4	7	2	9
Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland ..	1	1	..	1
Methodist	315	823	338	1,161
Independent or Congrega- tional.. ..	76	80	48	128
Baptist	100	115	45	160
Lutheran	24	46	18	64
Salvation Army	544	168	39	207
Church of Christ	95	100	16	116
Church for Deaf Mutes ..	2	1	1	2
Other Protestant.. ..	21	32	17	49
Roman Catholic Church ..	356	558	227	785
New Church (or Swedenborgian)	1	2	..	2
Catholic Apostolic Church ..	12	1	..	1
Jews	5	4	2	6
Re-organized Church of Latter- Day Saints	11	3	3	6
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- Day Saints	4	1	..	1
Total	2,304	3,297	1,667	4,964

The Sunday Schools of the various religious bodies numbered 2,999, and the teachers 23,229; the number of scholars on the rolls was 229,674—105,211 males and 124,463 females.

Religions of
the people.

The following table shows the principal religions of the people as ascertained at the census of 1921:—

RELIGIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF VICTORIA AT THE CENSUS OF 1921.

Religion.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Per cent. of Population.
Protestant Churches—				
Church of England	300,159	301,650	601,809	39·88
Protestant so stated	10,127	8,509	18,636	1·23
Presbyterian	125,741	131,331	257,072	17·04
Methodist	86,854	96,975	183,829	12·18
Independent or Congregational	7,175	8,718	15,893	1·05
Baptist	14,531	17,774	32,305	2·14
Lutheran	4,905	3,779	8,684	·58
Salvation Army	4,071	5,112	9,183	·61
Unitarian	253	173	426	·03
Church of Christ	9,862	12,388	22,250	1·47
Seventh Day Adventists	920	1,515	2,435	·16
Roman Catholic Church (including Catholic undefined, 6,847)	156,329	166,236	322,565	21·38
Other Christians	5,801	6,120	11,921	·79
Other Denominations—				
Jews	3,949	3,728	7,677	·51
Buddhist, Confucian, &c.	1,021	42	1,063	·07
Mohammedan	280	24	304	·02
Others (Non-Christian)	457	164	621	·04
Sceptics, &c.	8,334	3,991	12,325	·82
Total specified	740,769	768,229	1,508,998	100·00
„ unspecified	13,955	8,327	22,282	..
Grand Total	754,724	776,556	1,531,280	..

Religions per
cent. of
population,
1871 to 1921.

The next table shows the principal religions of the people per 100 of the population in the six census years 1871 to 1921:—

RELIGIONS OF THE PEOPLE PER 100 OF THE POPULATION, 1871 TO 1921.

Religion.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.
Protestant Churches—						
Church of England (including Protestant so stated)	36·01	36·74	37·33	36·52	37·02	41·11
Presbyterian	15·78	15·65	14·94	16·16	18·27	17·04
Methodist	13·16	13·58	14·14	15·21	13·76	12·18
Independent or Congregational	2·54	2·35	1·98	1·45	1·28	1·05
Baptist	2·28	2·40	2·50	2·75	2·43	2·14
Lutheran	1·47	1·32	1·39	1·18	·91	·58
Salvation Army .. ..	..	..	1·21	·74	·61	·61
Church of Christ	·50	·57	·74	·90	1·29	1·47
Other Protestant Churches	·51	·37	·66	1·45	·78	·78
Total Protestant Churches	72·25	72·98	74·89	76·36	76·35	76·96
Roman Catholic Church	23·83	24·02	22·24	22·26	22·31	21·38
Jews	·50	·51	·58	·50	·49	·51
Others	3·42	2·49	2·29	·88	·85	1·15
Total specified	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Friendly societies seem to have been established in Victoria very soon after the first settlement of the territory, but it was not until after the passing of the 1855 Act that any steps were taken for their registration as institutions recognised by law. That statute consolidated and amended the laws then in force relating to friendly societies, and was the first Act passed in this connexion by the Victorian Legislature after the separation of Victoria from New South Wales in 1851. It was assented to on 12th June, 1855, and provided for the appointment of a registrar, and also a certifying barrister, to whom the rules of a society had to be submitted for examination, and whose certificate, that these rules were in accordance with the law, was necessary before registration could be effected. It also provided that the tables of contributions should be certified by an actuary of an assurance company, or "some person" appointed by the registrar before the rules of the society could be registered.

Registration was not, however, made compulsory, and the actuarial certificate, given by the actuary appointed by the registrar under the provisions of the Act for this purpose, was only of a provisional nature, issued subject to the condition that the tables were to be submitted to him for approval after a certain period had elapsed. This temporary certificate was given because there were no data then available in Australia on which to calculate the amount necessary to provide the sickness benefits. As there was no power under the Act to compel a society to apply to the actuary for a renewal of the provisional certificate when the time covered by that certificate had expired, the registration of these institutions was unfortunately permanently effected with rates of contribution which afterwards proved to be, in almost every instance, inadequate. The control exercised over friendly societies as a result of this legislation was very slight.

No further serious attention was given by the Government to friendly societies until 1875, when a Commission was appointed to inquire into "the working of the Friendly Societies Statute, the position and operations of the societies registered under it, and what amendment, if any, is desirable in the existing law." The outcome of this Commission was the 1877 Act, which provided (*inter alia*) for the appointment of a barrister of not less than seven years' standing as registrar, and also that each society should furnish returns annually to the Government Statist, and once at least in every five years should either have its assets and liabilities valued by a valuer appointed by the society or send such particulars to the Government Statist as would enable him to have the valuation made. The fees for valuation were purposely fixed at a low rate, and average less than two-pence per member, the result being that, although it is competent for the societies to employ outside valuers, should they so desire, as a matter of fact they have rarely done so, and nearly all the valuations

have been made by the Government Actuary. The passing of this Act had the effect of considerably increasing the control exercised by the Government over the operations of friendly societies.

In accordance with its provisions, an actuary was appointed under the Government Statist in 1881, whose chief duty was to make periodical valuations of the assets and liabilities of societies, and the result of these valuations disclosed the fact that, in almost every instance, the rates then being paid by the members were insufficient to provide the benefits which the societies had by their rules agreed to pay. The Act gave no power to enforce payment of adequate rates of contribution, and the actuary could not therefore compel a society to take such steps as would enable it to meet its liabilities, but could only give advice as to the best means to be adopted to secure that end. It is only just to the managing bodies of these institutions, however, to state that most of the principal societies made a serious effort to carry out the suggestions of the actuary. Several of them passed rules requiring future members to pay adequate rates of contribution, and in nearly every case some effort was made to improve the financial position.

It was not until 1907 that registration of societies was made compulsory, and that they were required to adopt adequate rates of contribution in respect of all members, existing as well as new members. An Act which was passed in that year embodied these provisions, the penalty for failure to adopt adequate rates of contribution being cancellation of registration. The operation of the Act, in so far as it related to the scale of contributions payable, was, however, limited to a period of eighteen months. This was a serious defect, as contributions which are sufficient at one time may at a future date become inadequate, owing to fluctuations in interest, sickness, or mortality rates or faulty management. To remedy this defect an amending Act was passed in the year 1911. This Act provides that, if a society receives two successive notifications from the Government Statist that its rates are inadequate, it must adopt adequate rates within twelve months of the second notification, otherwise its registration will be cancelled. There must be an interval of at least three years between the two notifications. It is expected that a society on receiving the first notification will take such steps to improve its position as will obviate the necessity for the second being issued.

The legislation which has been referred to has had a very beneficial effect on societies. Of fifteen societies having a membership of over 500 each, thirteen have assets whose ratio to liabilities exceeds, or closely approximates to, 20s. in the £, and of all the Victorian societies only one has a lower ratio than 18s. in the £. In Victoria the societies have received no subvention from the State.

If, on an actuarial valuation being made, a surplus is found to exist in any one fund of a society, the Government Statist may authorize the utilization of the whole or a portion of such surplus for the purposes of the same or any other fund.

Central bodies of societies are empowered by statute to appoint auditors to audit and inspect the accounts and securities of branches at such time as the central body may direct. Every trustee, treasurer, secretary, chairman or member of the committee of management who takes any money or valuable thing in consideration of any benefit received or to be received by any member of an unregistered society is liable to a penalty of £50. Trade unions are exempted from registration. The investment of funds on leasehold property is now illegal, but the power to invest is extended to any securities on which a trustee is under any Act authorized to invest any trust funds in his hands. All loans on freehold property must be on first mortgage only, and are not to exceed three-fifths of the value as certified by a practical surveyor or valuer. The trustees are prohibited from investing on mortgage if the fee-simple of the property has been in the possession of a trustee or his wife during the previous five years. An Act passed in 1910 created a new stock for the special benefit of friendly societies, investment in which is optional and on which interest is payable at 4 per cent. The amount invested in the stock at the end of June, 1924, was £326,636. Prior to the year 1907 it was not lawful for a friendly societies' dispensary to sell patent or other medicines to members of friendly societies or their relatives, but this restriction has been amended, so that all benefit members, who have paid the full subscription to the dispensary and the full amount payable to their society for medicines and medical appliances, may now be supplied with medicines for which payment is required.

The *Friendly Societies Act* 1915 consolidates all Acts passed up to 1914 inclusive. An Act passed in 1915—the *Friendly Societies Act* 1915 (No. 2)—gave power to societies to reinsure with the Government or with an approved life assurance company their liabilities to members who were engaged on naval or military service in connexion with the war. The number of societies which took advantage of the scheme was twelve, and the number of their enlisted members was about 15,120. The sum paid by them in sickness and mortality benefits on account of those members under the contracts which were reinsured was about £232,000, and of this sum £46,500 was reimbursed to the societies by the Government in accordance with the arrangement made with it.

The amounts of the sickness and mortality benefits paid by all societies on account of members who took part in the war was about £286,000. In addition, the societies paid the contributions of enlisted members during their absence from Australia. The amount of these contributions was about £152,000.

An Act was passed in 1922 in relation to Dividing Societies, *i.e.*, friendly societies which divide the whole or a portion of their funds each year. Its principal provisions are (1) that no dividing society shall be established in future unless it limits its membership to the employees of a particular Government department, municipality, company, or other

body firm or person; and (2) that every existing dividing society, the operations of which are not limited in the manner indicated, shall re-register every year, and, as a precedent to such re-registration, shall forward to the Registrar an actuarial certificate that its rates of contribution are adequate to provide the benefits specified in its rules.

Under the *Friendly Societies Act* 1923, which was assented to on 2nd October, 1923, societies may provide for the payment of sums of money on the deaths of members, their husbands, wives, widows, children, or kindred up to an aggregate of £100 instead of sums for defraying the expenses of burial of members and the other persons mentioned. Societies are also permitted to contract with a person for the payment of a maximum amount of sick pay of £3 per week. Previously the periodical payment was limited to £2 per week. Another important provision of the Act is that the Government Statist may make or cause to be made such inspection and examination of the books of a society or branch as he deems necessary.

The societies perform a function which cannot be carried out with the same success by other means—that of providing for the loss which would otherwise be sustained by the wage-earners of the community and those dependent on them, through illness or death. Their organization enables them to keep in touch with their members, to guard against malingering, and to perform satisfactorily a work which, on account of its peculiar nature, could not be attended to satisfactorily by institutions organized on the lines of the ordinary insurance company. Their main objects are to afford relief in sickness, and to provide a moderate payment on the death of a member or his wife. The usual sickness benefits are 20s. per week during the first six months of sickness, 10s. per week during the second six months, and 5s. per week thereafter so long as the sickness continues. The member has also the benefit of medical attendance and medicine for himself and his near relatives. A sum of £20 is usually payable on the death of the member, and of £10 on the death of his wife should she predecease him. In pursuance of the provisions of the *Friendly Societies Act* 1923, referred to in a previous paragraph, members of some of the societies are now being given the opportunity to contribute for larger sickness and death benefits than those which have hitherto been provided. The benefits coming under the heading of medical attendance and medicine extend usually to the whole family, embracing in the general case member, wife, and children up to the age of 16 years in the case of males and 18 years in the case of females, widowed mother of unmarried member, and also widow and family after death of member on payment of medical fees.

The funds of the societies are divided into two or more portions. Of these the most important are the sick and funeral fund, out of which are payable the sickness and death benefits, and the medical and management fund, from which are taken the payments for medical attendance, medicines, and management expenses. The

weekly contribution to the sick and funeral fund varies with the age at entry, and for the benefits above mentioned usually ranges from 6d. to 1s. per week. The contribution to the other fund generally remains uniform throughout life, the usual charge being from 8d. to 10d. per week. The total sum payable by each member thus ranges from about 1s. 2d. to 1s. 10d. per week. There are in addition small initiation fees, and, in some instances, registration fees for second wives.

The total membership of Victorian friendly societies decreased from 157,280 at the end of 1913 to 153,840 in the middle of 1924—a decrease during the ten and a half years of 3,440 members.

There was a slight decline in the membership between the ends of the years 1914 and 1917 due to deaths of members while on active service and to the absence from Victoria of many young men who might otherwise have joined the societies. A marked decrease in the membership of nearly all societies occurred in 1918 and 1919—the decrease in the earlier year was 7,004 in male and 1,619 in female members, and in the later year 3,918 in male and 1,360 in female members. In 1920 there was a further decline of 757 male and 502 female members, making a total loss for the three years of 11,679 males and 3,481 females. This numerical decrease was principally due to a dispute between the British Medical Association and the societies which led to the resignation of nearly all the medical officers as from 1st February, 1918. A settlement of the dispute has now been arrived at between the Association and all the societies. In 1921 numerical recovery set in, there was an increase during that year of 618 male and 181 female members, and in 1922 of 2,448 male and 420 female members. During the eighteen months ended in June, 1924, there was a further increase of 6,660 and 492 male and female members respectively.

The funds increased during the ten and a half-year period 1913–22 and 1923–24 from £2,490,957 to £3,838,052, there being an addition of £1,347,095. They are well invested, the return from the sick and funeral fund for the year 1923 averaging 5.15 per cent. There is a number of female societies, the particulars for which are included above. At the end of June, 1924, these had a membership of 10,787 and funds amounting to £88,590.

A table is appended showing the membership, revenue, expenditure, and total funds of friendly societies in Victoria during the five and a half years 1919–22 and 1923–24:—

Year.			Membership (end of year).	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Funds.
				£	£	£
1919	..	..	144,280	664,526	680,943	3,056,666
1920	..	..	143,021	681,232	564,220	3,173,678
1921	..	..	143,820	763,031	561,659	3,375,050
1922	..	..	146,688	790,788	616,040	3,549,798
1923–24*	..	..	153,840	1,193,550	905,296	3,838,052

* A period of eighteen months.

The statement which follows contains further information in regard to the societies for the five and a half years, 1919 to 1923-24 :—

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, 1919 TO 1923-24.

(Including Female Societies.)

—	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923-24.*
Number of societies ..	49	55	56	57	60
Number of branches ..	1,489	1,475	1,464	1,467	1,469
Average number of members ..	146,919	143,651	143,421	145,254	150,264
Number of members sick ..	46,612	29,063	27,342	26,275	41,688
Weeks for which sick pay was allowed ..	406,817	294,818	258,540	258,851	405,245
Deaths of members ..	2,211	1,381	1,302	1,299	2,153
Deaths of registered wives ..	751	471	526	476	771
	£	£	£	£	£
Income of sick and funeral fund.. ..	367,878	358,726	408,193	370,568	584,487
Income of incidental fund ..	265,672	289,367	319,957	385,821	544,879
Other Income ..	30,976	33,139	34,881	34,399	64,184
Total Income ..	664,526	681,232	763,031	790,788	1,193,550
Expenditure of sick and funeral fund ..	375,733	250,589	235,593	286,631	383,454
Expenditure of incidental fund.. ..	276,442	282,592	295,447	296,980	465,739
Other Expenditure ..	28,768	31,039	30,619	32,429	56,103
Total Expenditure ..	680,943	564,220	561,659	616,040	905,296
Amount to credit of sick and funeral fund ..	2,876,863	2,985,000	3,157,600	3,241,528	3,442,561
Amount to credit of incidental fund ..	103,128	109,903	134,413	223,223	302,363
Amount invested—sick and funeral fund ..	2,783,425	2,889,409	3,046,251	3,155,993	3,371,784
Amount invested—incidental fund ..	103,128	109,871	134,413	221,174	299,777
Amount invested—other funds ..	71,268	76,680	80,144	81,898	89,033
Total invested ..	2,957,821	3,075,960	3,260,808	3,459,065	3,760,594
„ funds ..	3,056,666	3,173,678	3,375,050	3,549,798	3,838,052

* A period of eighteen months.

NOTE.—There are juvenile branches connected with some of the societies, but the information in regard to these has not been considered of sufficient importance to be included in the above table.

During the eighteen months ended in the middle of 1924 the societies lost by secession 14,314 members, which number, after being reduced by one-third so as to make it applicable to a twelve months period, was equivalent to an annual loss of 6.5 per cent. The rate of secession was also 6.5 per cent. in 1922, 7.8 per cent. in 1921, 8.2 per cent. in 1920, 8.5 per cent. in 1919, 7.5 per cent. in 1918, and 6.0 per cent. in 1917. The higher secession rates in the four years 1918-1921 were due mainly to the dispute between the British Medical Association and the societies, which is referred to in a previous paragraph. They were due, in part, to a

Secessions and expenses.

number of members who had been on active service and whose contributions had been paid for them while absent from Australia having failed to resume payment of contributions on their return. As a rule, most of the secessions are those of new members who allow their membership to lapse before they have time to appreciate its value. Expenses of management absorbed $19\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the contributions to all funds during the period 1923-24. This ratio is considerably below the usual rate in industrial assurance business. When it is remembered that the benefits and contributions are generally payable fortnightly and that this entails a great deal of administrative work, it will be seen that the rate of expense is very moderate.

Sickness and mortality experience, 1903-07. An investigation was made into the sickness and mortality experience of three of the largest Victorian friendly societies for the period 1903-07. This relates to male lives only. Tables containing rates of sickness and mortality obtained by the investigation are given in the *Year-Book* for 1913-14.

Sickness and mortality, 1914-23. The following statement shows the number of weeks' sickness experienced by male members of ordinary friendly societies, and the number per effective member, in respect of which claims for sick pay were received in 1914 (the last year unaffected by the war), 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, and 1923; also the number of deaths of male members of such societies in those years and the number per 1,000 effective members:—

Year.	Average Number of Effective Members.	Weeks of Sickness.			Deaths.	
		Number.	Number per Effective Member.		Number.	Number per 1,000 Effective Members.
		Weeks.	Weeks.	Days.		
1914..	125,952	216,520	1	4	1,263	10·03
1917..	128,989	257,847	2	0	2,409	18·68
1918..	125,667	288,088	2	2	2,457	19·55
1919..	119,308	382,247	3	1	2,080	17·43
1920..	114,797	278,401	2	3	1,313	11·44
1921..	113,666	240,207	2	1	1,224	10·77
1922..	115,426	241,021	2	1	1,221	10·58
1923.*	118,502	249,113*	2	1	1,328*	11·21

* These represent two-thirds of the number for the period 1923-24.

The large increase in the sickness rate of 1919 was due chiefly to members who had been on active service having deferred until their return to the Commonwealth their claims for sick pay for incapacity arising out of sickness experienced and wounds received during previous years. It was also due in part to the influenza epidemic of that year.

**Mortality
compared with
Australian
Population
Rates.**

In the following table the mortality rates of three of the largest Victorian Friendly Societies in recent years are compared with the Australian population mortality rates according to the mortality table known as the "Australian Life Table (males) 1901-1910." This table is based upon the mortality experience of the Commonwealth of Australia for the years mentioned. No table has been published showing the Australian experience for a later period. The rates given are averages for five-yearly age groups which have as their centres the ages shown in the table. Those relating to friendly societies apply only to members who did not take part in the war.

FRIENDLY SOCIETY MORTALITY RATES COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE AUSTRALIAN POPULATION.

Age next Birthday. (1).	Mortality Rates per 100 Lives of—		Ratio of Col. (2) to Col. (3). Per cent.
	Three large Friendly Societies, 1914-21. (2).	Australian Population, 1911. (3).	
18	·21	·32	66
23	·34	·41	83
28	·32	·48	67
33	·40	·57	70
38	·53	·72	74
43	·70	·94	74
48	·88	1·23	72
53	1·11	1·59	70
58	1·77	2·16	82
63	2·51	3·15	80
68	4·15	4·87	85
73	7·13	7·69	93
78	8·94	11·40	78
83	16·23	16·12	101
88	24·52	22·61	108
93	28·57	31·15	92
98	66·67	41·42	161

CONDITIONS OF LABOUR IN FACTORIES AND SHOPS.

**Labour
legislation.**

The earliest attempt at regulating the conditions of labour in Victoria was made by the passing of an Act dated 11th November, 1873, forbidding the employment of any female for more than eight hours in any day in a factory. The

same Act defined "factory" to be a place where not fewer than ten persons were working.

This small provision was administered by the Board of Public Health, and was followed, in 1885, by a much larger statute, providing for the registration of factories, their sanitation, fire escape, and guarding of machinery, and regulating the conditions of work generally to a much greater extent than formerly, besides providing for the closing of shops at fixed hours. These latter provisions were designed to give some relief to the employees, who could previously be kept at work in shops as long as their employers chose.

From that time onwards further legislative provisions were introduced at frequent intervals, and gradually the community has come to recognise the necessity of securing the health, comfort, and reasonable ease of the workers. The opposition, which was at first very strong, has gradually disappeared, until now it is safe to say that all sections of the community realize the humanitarian aspects of the movement, and have accepted the principle that the rights of work-people shall be conserved by law.

The interests of the factory worker as regards wages, personal safety, and health now receive a large amount of attention. Government inspectors prosecute employers wherever underpayment is found. They take proceedings also to carry out all the provisions of the factory laws. No one can occupy a factory unless the place is properly lighted and ventilated, has ample means of escape in case of fire, has all its machinery fenced and guarded, and has proper sanitary arrangements provided for both sexes. The Minister may now require the occupier of any factory, shop, or place to provide for the use of the employees a dining-room and a bath-room, and, for the use of the female employees, suitable sitting accommodation and a rest-room. The closing time of shops is carefully regulated. The hours of shop employees are restricted, and they must be given a half-holiday every week.

Wages Boards. The Wages Board method of fixing wages and settling the conditions of employment had its origin in Victoria. It was introduced into an Act of Parliament in 1896 by Sir Alexander Peacock. The principle embodied in the British jury system that a man can only be tried by his peers is the essence of the Victorian Wages Board system. The Boards are composed of equal numbers of employers and employees. The representatives are carefully chosen, so that every shade of interest in the trade shall be represented as fully as possible on the Board. The Board thus becomes a jury of trade experts, all of whom are versed in the requirements and intricacies of the trade they are dealing with.

An application for a Board in any trade which has not been brought under the Wages Board system can be made either by

a Union or by a meeting of employees. Upon receipt of such an application the Minister usually orders the collection of figures to show the rates of wages, the average number of hours worked, the number of persons employed in the trade, and so on. If he finds that there is good reason therefor, the Governor in Council may appoint a Wages Board and define the scope of its operations. The Board consists of from six to ten members (half elected by employers and half by employees), who nominate some outside person as chairman; or, if no agreement can be arrived at as to such nomination, then the Minister appoints the chairman. The Board may fix the rates of payment either by piece-work or wages, or both; the maximum number of hours per week or per day for which such rates shall be paid; a higher rate for work done in excess of such maximum number of hours; the times of beginning and ending work, including the hours of each shift; a higher rate for work done outside such times; special rates for casual work in the case of any trade not usually carried on in a factory or shop, or for work done on Sundays and public holidays, and for time occupied in travelling to and from work; the day and latest hour when payment of wages is to be made, also what notice of termination of employment shall be given by either employer or worker; and the number of and the rates of pay to apprentices and improvers who may be employed. Casual work is now defined in the Act as work or labour during any week for not more than one-half of the maximum number of hours fixed by the Wages Board appointed to fix rates for the work in question.

By an amendment of the law made in 1922 the Boards are given power to provide that in trades carried on in factories or shops a person working fewer hours than those fixed for an ordinary week's work shall be paid from 33 to 50 per cent. above ordinary wages' rate for the first half of such week's work. For each hour worked beyond the aforesaid first half ordinary rates are payable up to but *not exceeding* the wage fixed by the Board for the full week's work.

By this provision the wages of an employee are stabilized as far as possible. Previously he could be employed on a systematic short time principle each week, and be paid only *pro rata* for the hours worked. As a safeguard against imposition on the part of the worker, he is not entitled to any wages if he refuses to complete the full number of hours fixed as a week's work.

NEW BOARDS AND ALTERATION OF POWERS.

The powers conferred on the Governor in Council by the *Factories and Shops Act 1920* to appoint Wages Boards without reference to

Parliament were, during the year 1924, exercised in the following eleven cases :—

Carters and Drivers Board ..	Appointed in lieu of the Aerated Water Carters, Carters and Livery Stable Boards, and also to take over certain powers previously conferred on the Pastrycooks Board.
Clerks (Timber Trade) Board.	
Entertainment Employees (Non-performers) Board.	
Gas Works Board.	
Glue and Gelatine Board.	
Pottery Board	Appointed in lieu of the Pottery-Glazed, Pottery-Glazed (Country), Pottery-Unglazed, Pottery-Unglazed (Country) Boards.
Saddlery and Harness Board	Appointed in lieu of the Saddlery and Saddlery (Country) Boards.
Wharfs and Jetties Board.	
Wire Fence and Tubular Gate Board.	
Woodworkers Board ..	{ Appointed in lieu of the Timber Fellers, Woodworkers, and Woodworkers (Country) Boards.
Woodworkers (Country) Board	

Powers were varied in ten cases, as follows :—

Boilermakers Board.	Musical Instruments Board.
Dental Mechanics Board.	Plate Glass Board.
Furniture Board.	Quarry Board.
Glue and Gelatine Board.	Storemen, Packers and Sorters Board.
Leather Goods Board.	Tanners Board.

Powers were extended in the case of the

Builders Labourers Board.

The Commercial Clerks Board was deprived of the power to determine prices or rates to be paid to any person employed in the timber trade as a clerk, and such power was conferred exclusively on the Clerks (Timber Trade) Board.

On 31st December, 1924, there were 183 Wages Boards existent or authorized, affecting about 192,300 employees.

A Wages Board, having been constituted, meets (until the first Determination is made) as often as it chooses, usually once a week, at the Factories Office. An officer of the Department of Labour acts as secretary. The chairmen and members of Boards are paid as follows :—

Three hours' attendance or less—Chairman, 15s. ; member, 7s. 6d.
 Over three hours' attendance—Chairman, 30s. ; member, 15s.
 Any member residing 10 miles or more from Melbourne is paid, in addition, train fares and 15s. per day expenses.

Provided that members are not to be paid fees, fares, or expenses for more than—

(a) Ten meetings in the first twelve months after the constitution of the Board.

(b) Six meetings in any subsequent year.

When computing the time occupied in attendance, intervals for meals are not to be counted.

After a Determination has been arrived at it is sent to the Minister of Labour and gazetted, and it thereupon becomes law. It is then the duty of the officers of the Department of Labour to enforce it. Where the Minister considers that any breach of the law is trivial, or has occurred through a mistake, he administers a warning; in more serious cases he orders a prosecution. The prosecutions are carried out by the officers of the Department of Labour, without expense to the worker, and on a conviction being obtained the Court may make an order for arrears of wages, that may be due for any period not exceeding twelve months, to be paid. It is, however, open to any worker, if he has made demand in writing on the employer within two months from the date same became due, to sue in a civil court for the amount of wages owing to him.

Provision has been made in the law for the constitution of a Court of Industrial Appeals for deciding all appeals against a Determination of a Wages Board, and for dealing with any Determination of a Wages Board referred to the Court by the Minister. The Court has been asked to make or alter sixty-one Determinations. Since 1st January, 1915, it has consisted of a President and two other persons. The President, who must be a Judge of the Supreme Court, holds such office for such period as the Governor in Council thinks fit, and must sit in every Court of Industrial Appeals. Mr. Justice J. R. Macfarlan has been appointed President. The other members can only act in the Court for which they are appointed, and one must be a representative of employers and the other a representative of employees. Each must be nominated in writing by the side which he represents, and must have been *bonâ fide* and actually engaged in the trade concerned for at least six months during the three years immediately preceding his nomination. Subject to the Act a majority decision decides every reference to the Court. Since its re-constitution in 1915 it has dealt with forty-three cases. The determination of the Court may now be altered by the Wages Boards without the leave of the Court if twelve months has elapsed since the date of the last Determination of the Court.

Rise in earnings. During the year 1924 Determinations made by 167 Boards appointed under the Act were in force. The following statement shows the average weekly wage paid to employees in certain trades (1) before the first Determination was made, (2) in 1914, and (3) in 1924, the figures for the two last

mentioned years being the amounts paid to the employees under the Determinations of Wages Boards:—

Trade.	Average Weekly Wage Paid to all Employees.		
	Before First Deter- mination was made.	In 1914.	In 1924.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Aerated Water	1 6 7	1 17 8	3 16 0
Agricultural Implements	1 19 5	2 10 1	4 7 9
Asphalters	2 2 10	2 13 8	4 12 2
Bedsteadmakers	1 12 2	2 9 6	4 8 4
Boot	1 3 2	2 1 7	3 8 8
Bread	1 12 6	3 2 7	5 7 8
Brewers	1 14 4	2 10 2	4 15 4
Brushmakers	1 3 1	2 4 9	3 10 7
Candlemakers	1 4 8	2 4 2	3 19 4
Carpenters	2 7 6	3 3 10	5 12 6
Clothing	1 0 0	1 6 9	2 14 5
„ Waterproof	1 2 3	1 17 4	3 1 9
Commercial Clerks	1 10 7	2 9 6	3 13 5
Coopers	1 15 7	3 6 3	6 0 10
Engravers	1 16 11	2 5 11	4 4 7
Farriers	1 15 2	2 4 5	4 6 11
Furniture Trade—			
(a) European (Cabinet making &c.)	1 9 1	2 5 10	4 2 8
(b) European (Mantelpieces)	1 13 6	2 9 7	4 12 9
Glassworkers	1 14 11	2 7 3	4 13 9
Hairdressers	1 2 9	2 2 7	3 10 1
Ice	2 10 3	3 4 7	5 13 10
Jewellers	1 13 10	2 9 8	4 1 9
Lift Attendants	1 5 0	2 7 8	4 1 8
Malt	2 1 1	2 17 1	5 0 3
Marine Store	1 5 7	2 5 0	4 5 7
Millet Broom	1 7 11	2 2 9	3 12 7
Painters	2 0 9	2 14 11	4 18 5
Picture Frame	1 3 11	1 19 9	4 2 7
Plate Glass	1 7 6	2 5 11	4 9 11
Plumbers	1 12 8	2 14 4	5 4 10
Pottery	1 8 1	2 0 8	} ..
„ (Glazed) .. ..	..	..
„ (Unglazed) .. ..	..	..
„ (Glazed) — Country .. ..	..	..
„ (Unglazed)— „ .. ..	..	..	4 2 1
Saddlery	1 7 1	2 2 11	4 5 3
„ Country	1 10 7	1 16 11	3 5 4
Shops Board No. 1—(Boot Dealers)	1 6 11	2 0 11	2 19 7
Shops Board No. 3—(Butchers)	1 17 8	3 1 2	4 7 9
Shops Board No. 15—(Grocers)	1 7 4	2 6 8	3 16 11
Slaters and Tilers	2 0 8	3 7 3	4 17 11
Starch	1 0 9	2 0 6	4 16 0
Stonecutters	1 15 11	3 2 0	5 7 9
Tanners	1 11 9	2 10 6	4 7 2
Watchmakers	1 14 2	2 19 2	4 12 10
Wicker	1 2 11	2 2 4	3 19 1
Woodworkers	1 13 2	2 11 9	4 12 5
„ Country	2 9 0	2 14 11	4 17 4

Apprentices. The wages of apprentices in Victoria are fixed by the Wages Boards in each trade. These Boards also prescribe the form of indenture and the term of apprenticeship. Once a boy is indentured, it becomes the duty of the Department of Labour on the one hand to see that he is taught his trade properly, and on the other to enforce his proper attendance at his work, and generally to protect both parties and see that they carry out the agreement.

Factories. A factory is defined to mean any place in which four or more persons, other than a Chinese, or in which one or more Chinese are employed in any handicraft, or in preparing articles for trade or sale; or any place in which one or more are employed, if motive power be used in the preparation of such articles, or where furniture is made, or where bread or pastry is made or baked for sale, or in which electricity is generated for the supply of heat or light, or power, or in which coal gas is made; and also any clay pit or quarry worked in connexion with and occupied by the occupier of any pottery or brickyard. The expression "handicraft" includes any work done in a laundry or in dyeworks. Provision is made for the registration of factories, and inspectors are appointed to inspect and examine them in order to insure that the health requirements and other provisions of the Acts are complied with. The employment of males under 14 and females under 15 years of age is debarred, but provision is made by which a girl of 14 can receive permission to work in a factory if it be shown that the parents are poor, and that the best interests of the girl will be served. A strict limitation is placed on the hours of employment of all females and of males under sixteen. There are special provisions to guard against accidents, and persons in charge of engines and boilers must hold certificates of competency of service. The working hours of Chinese are specially restricted, with the object of preventing or lessening unfair competition. Every employee in a factory must be paid at least 2s. 6d. per week, this provision being, of course, intended as a protection for juvenile workers. All earnings must be paid at least once in every fortnight. There were registered in 1886 only 1,949 factories, with 39,506 employees, whereas in 1924 the figures were 10,012 factories, with 129,147 employees.

Factory legislation. The *Factories and Shops Acts* were consolidated during the year 1915 by the *Factories and Shops Act* 1915, No. 2650. No changes were effected in the law by this measure. The existing Acts were merely consolidated.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1919 (No. 3048), passed at the close of the year 1919, made some important changes in the law, but it consists mainly of machinery clauses designed in the interests of the smooth working of the law.

Two short Amending Acts passed at the close of the year 1920 made important alterations in the law.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1920, No. 3093, altered the procedure regarding the appointment of Wages Boards. Prior to that Act coming into operation these Boards could only be created whilst Parliament was in session. The Governor in Council now has the power to appoint a Wages Board whenever it is deemed expedient to do so, and to alter the scope of any existing Wages Board.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1920, No. 3112, introduced a new principle into the legislation. For many years the closing hour of shops has been fixed by law. This Act for the first time fixed a legal opening hour which affects butchers' shops in the Metropolitan District.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1922, No. 3252, made some important alterations, the principal of which are as follows :—

A new scale of fees was fixed for registration of factories and shops, which resulted in an increase in revenue nearly sufficient to cover the whole cost of the administration of the Department of Labour.

The powers of Wages Boards were simplified and consolidated.

Rates for casual workers in factories and shops were put upon a different basis with a view to the stabilizing of the weekly wage.

The appointment of members of Wages Boards was simplified. Members had previously been appointed for three years, and much trouble was caused in getting new nominations at the date of expiry of each Board. Now Boards are appointed for one year, and every Board expires on the 30th September of each year, but will be automatically re-appointed unless objection is lodged. The result has been a saving of much time and expense as very few objections have been received.

The Minister now makes all appointments to fill vacancies instead of the Governor in Council.

The Governor in Council has now power to exempt new industries from the provisions of Wages Boards for six months, to enable operatives to learn their work.

Bread may now be sold at any hour of the day or night.

The provisions of the Act relating to the guarding of dangerous machinery have been extended so that chaffcutting machines on farms or elsewhere may be guarded for the protection of the workers.

Boards are empowered to fix what notice shall be given by either side of the termination of employment, also to fix the day and latest hour on which wages shall be paid.

**Shops,
Metropolitan
District.**

Shortly stated, in the Metropolitan District, as defined in the *Factories and Shops Act* 1915, the hours for closing shops are as follows:—Hairdressers' shops must be closed on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 8 p.m., on Friday at 9 p.m., and on Saturday at 1 p.m. Tobacconists' shops must be closed on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 8 p.m.; if the shop be closed on Saturday at 1 p.m., it must be closed on Wednesday at 8 p.m., and may be kept open until 9 p.m. on Friday; if it be closed at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, it may be kept open until 8 p.m. on Friday and 9 p.m. on Saturday. Until a choice is made the shop must be closed on Wednesday at 1 p.m. Butchers' shops are required to close at 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, at 6 p.m. on Friday, and at 12.30 p.m. on Saturday. They are required to be closed till 6 a.m. on Saturday and 7.30 a.m. on other week days. All other shops (except Fourth Schedule shops) must be closed at 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Friday the closing hour is 9 p.m., and on Saturday 1 p.m.

The Fourth Schedule shops are:—

- Bread shops.
- Booksellers' and news agents' shops.
- Confectionery and pastry shops.
- Cooked meat (other than tinned meat) shops.
- Eating-houses.
- Fish and oyster shops.
- Flower shops.
- Fruit and vegetable shops.

The hours for closing such shops are not fixed by the Act, but the Governor in Council is given power to make Regulations for their closing. Section 2 of Act No. 3181, which came into force on 29th August, 1922, provides that such Regulations shall not apply to fruit shops in the area enclosed by Flinders, Spencer, Latrobe, Victoria, and Spring streets, Melbourne.

The following are the only cases where these Regulations have been made. The hour of closing on each day of the week is given:—

—	Regulation Gazetted.	Sun.	Mon.	Tu.	Wed.	Th.	F.	Saturday.
		P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Cooked Meat (other than tinned meat)..	27th October, 1920	..	6	6	6	6	9	1
Fruit and Vegetable (May to September inclusive only. See previous paragraph re exempted area)...	16th October, 1918	..	7	7	7	7	..	..

Under the provisions of the *Factories and Shops Act 1915* the Minister can grant permission to keepers of certain shops known as "small shops," who would ordinarily be required to close their shops at 6 p.m., to keep open till 8 p.m. Such permission can only be granted to widows and old people, or in cases of great hardship, and applies only to the Metropolitan District.

Provision is also made under the Acts for overtime and tea money for shop employees.

Shops outside the Metropolitan District. The shops provisions of the Acts now apply to the whole State. Previous to 1st January, 1915, they did not apply to shires or portions of shires unless the shopkeepers therein had petitioned for them to be extended, and there was little uniformity throughout the Country Districts either as to the hours of closing shops or the observance of a weekly half-holiday. A universal Saturday half-holiday was legalized by Act No. 2558, passed in November, 1914, the shops being allowed to remain open till 10 p.m. (now altered to 9 p.m.) on Fridays, and the Country Districts were thus brought into line with the Metropolitan District, in which the Saturday half-holiday had been observed for years. In certain cases an exemption may be petitioned for and the half-holiday fixed for a day other than Saturday.

The hours of closing *on other days* outside the Metropolitan District are fixed at 7 p.m., but, if a petition be received from a majority of any class of shopkeepers, they may be fixed earlier or later. The hours have been altered in accordance with this provision in a few municipalities. Hairdressers and tobacconists outside the Metropolitan Districts may choose either Wednesday or Saturday as the day on which they will observe the half-holiday, but, if they choose Wednesday, they are required to close at 7 p.m. on Friday and 10 p.m. on Saturday. If they choose Saturday, or do not make a choice of half-holiday, they are required to close at 7 p.m. on Wednesday and 10 p.m. on Friday. Fourth Schedule shops are not affected by these provisions. Petrol may be sold at any hour to travellers to enable them to continue their journey.

Registration of Shops. Registration of shops became compulsory as from 1st March, 1915. The registration fee formerly ranged from

2s. 6d to 63s., according to the number of persons employed, but from 1st March, 1923, it has varied from 2s. 6d. to £10 (Act 3252, Sec. 4). During the year 1924, 33,388 shops, employing 34,853 persons, were registered, as compared with 32,301 shops, employing 33,133 persons, in 1923.

Registered shops are divided into 27 classes. There was an increase for the year 1924 as compared with 1923 of 1,087 shops, and 1,720 employees. Particulars of the increases and decreases in shops registered are given below:—

INCREASES AND DECREASES IN SHOPS REGISTERED, 1924.

	Metropolitan and Provincial Cities.		Country.		Whole State.	
	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bread	162	..	89	..	251	..
Confectionery and Pastry } Booksellers, News Agents } Fancy Goods Dealers }	30	..	..	7	23	..
Boot Dealers	13	..	10	..	23	..
Boot Repairers	6	..	..	26	..	20
Butchers	42	..	21	..	63	..
Chemists	12	..	5	..	17	..
Crockery .. ..	..	7	..	3	..	10
Cycle and Motor	59	..	31	..	90	..
Dairy Produce and Cooked Meat	57	..	11	..	68	..
Drapery	60	..	59	..	119	..
Fish	8	..	..	2	6	..
Florists	28	..	2	..	30	..
Fruit and Vegetable	9	..	74	..	83	..
Fuel and Fodder	18	..	..	17	1	..
Furniture	53	..	10	..	63	..
Grocers	26	..	..	58	..	32
Hairdressers	24	..	..	5	19	..
Hardware	56	..	..	23	33	..
Jewellery	3	..	1	..	4	..
Leather Goods	1	..	10	..	11	..
Men's Clothing	31	..	23	..	54	..
Musical Instruments	52	..	..	..	52	..
Tobacconists	77	..	..	12	65	..
Mixed	1	..	79	..	80	..
Shops not classified .. ..	..	34	28	..	..	6
Totals	828	41	453	153	1,155	68

GOVERNMENT LABOUR EXCHANGE.

Government Labour Exchange. Prior to 1st October, 1900, two labour bureaux were administered by the Railway Department. One registered men in search of work, and distributed all Government work, each Department paying the cost. The other was a Railway Staff Office, regulating and distributing all temporary and casual railway employment. Both these are now administered by an exchange under the control of the Labour Department, where applicants are

registered for temporary or casual employment, principally as artisans and labourers on Government works, including railways. Men are supplied, when work is available, according to their order of registration, subject to fitness. The Exchange also undertakes to supply workmen for private employment, and advances railway tickets to deserving applicants who may themselves have obtained employment in country districts, which they would otherwise be unable to reach, these advances being subject to orders for repayment out of earnings.

The following is a summary of the operations of the Exchange for the year 1924 in respect to registrations and applicants sent to employment :—

GOVERNMENT LABOUR EXCHANGE.

Year and Month.			Number of Applicants for Work as Registered at the end of each Month in the Metropolis.	Number of Men for whom Employment was Obtained.
1924—January .. ..	..	..	807	337
February .. ..	..	..	844	93
March .. ..	..	..	553	250
April .. ..	..	..	710	55
May .. ..	..	..	825	147
June .. ..	..	..	961	105
July .. ..	..	..	1,503	422
August .. ..	..	..	2,204	292
September .. ..	..	..	1,594	175
October .. ..	..	..	1,587	180
November .. ..	..	..	1,106	391
December .. ..	..	..	1,336	105
Total .. ..	..	..	14,030	2,550

In the next table particulars are given of the operations of the Exchange during the last five years :—

Year.			Registrations Effected.		Engagements Effected.
			In the City.	In the Country.	
1920 .. ..	..	..	11,798	1,357	6,656
1921 .. ..	..	..	15,376	1,274	4,457
1922 .. ..	..	..	12,361	1,065	1,913
1923 .. ..	..	..	11,233	718	1,703
1924 .. ..	..	..	14,030	526	2,550

Regarding the number of distinct individuals included in the registrations and engagements effected, the officer in charge of the Exchange states that the number of men who are regular applicants at the Exchange is very considerable, especially amongst unskilled labourers, and consequently a large allowance must be made for duplication of registrations. It would probably be safe to say that the number of distinct individuals applying in any one year would be represented by about half the registrations effected. Also in connexion with the engagements effected in the course of a year allowance must be made for the fact that the same applicants may be employed more than once during the year, and this further employment, it is considered, would represent about one-sixth to one-eighth of the engagements made.

During the year 1924 the number of railway tickets advanced was 4,017, valued at £3,682, of which £3,045 has been refunded. During the past twenty-four years 62,604 railway tickets have been advanced, of the value of £51,328, of which £34,964 has been refunded.

REPATRIATION.

On 8th April, 1918, Repatriation became an Australian national undertaking for the provision of benefits for Australian soldiers, sailors and nurses who served in the great war. On that date the Commonwealth Government established the Department of Repatriation, with (the late) Senator the Hon. E. D. Millen as first Minister. Its objects are to find employment for the fit, to re-establish the disabled, to provide for the dependants of those who have died and of those who are no longer able to support themselves, and to supply medical and surgical treatment for disabilities due to or aggravated by war service.

Organization of Department. A description of this is given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, page 369.

The *Year-Book* for 1920-21 contains, on pages 383 to 385, an epitome of the main work of the Department, also particulars of the sustenance rates granted to applicants awaiting fulfilment by the Department of certain specified obligations, and of the rates of pension payable to ex-members of the Forces and their dependants.

Activities of Department. The activities of the Department include the administration of a wide variety of benefits, such as employment, vocational training, medical treatment, children's education, land settlement and assistance. Under "assistance" establishment in

small businesses, furniture loans and grants, educational grants, equipment with tools of trade, and funeral expenses are provided. In co-operation with the State Governments a land settlement scheme has been devised, whereby the Federal Government loans the States money to provide the required holdings and to construct railways or other works necessary to their successful operation. Under this scheme the Commonwealth Government will also make available an average grant of £625 per settler. This will afford every ex-soldier possessing the natural aptitude and fitness an opportunity of ultimately owning his own farm. With the exception of South Australia, all the States have agreed to extend the benefits of the Land Settlement scheme to persons who were munition or war workers, and the Commonwealth Government's advance of £625 will be available for such persons.

The following is a summary of the work of the Department in Victoria from its inauguration, 8th April, 1918, to 30th June, 1925 :—

**Summary of
Work of
Department.**

Employment—

Number of applications received	..	..	84,624
Number of positions filled	..	..	47,761

Assistance other than vocational training and employment—

Number of applications received	..	..	211,261
Number of applications approved	..	..	192,180

Assistance granted—

Gifts	..	..	..	..	£3,060,356
Loans	..	..	..	..	517,266
General	..	..	..	..	1,201,315

Total £4,778,937

Vocational training statistics from 8th April, 1918, to 30th June, 1925 :—

Number of applications received	..	..	16,534
Number of applications approved	..	..	11,721
Completed training	..	..	5,513
In training at 30th June, 1925	..	..	248

N.B.—The above figures relate to day training only.

**War
Pensions.**

Since 1st July, 1920, war pensions have been administered by the Repatriation Commission. The number of such pensions in force in Victoria on 30th June, 1925, was 81,753 and the annual liability of the Commonwealth Government in connexion therewith was £2,060,526. Of the total number of pensioners, 23,834 were incapacitated members of the Forces, and 57,919 were dependants of deceased and incapacitated members.

**Workers'
Compensation
Act.**

The principal provisions of this Act are outlined in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 552 to 558. It was amended by an Act (No. 3,217) passed in December, 1922.

The latter Act made the following alterations :—

- (1.) The maximum weekly compensation was increased from £1 10s. to £2.
- (2.) The maximum compensation for total disability or on death (with total dependency) was increased from £500 to £600.
- (3.) The payment for funeral expenses was increased from £50 to £75.
- (4.) The minimum weekly payment to an adult worker was fixed at £1.
- (5.) Various anomalies in the Fourth Schedule were corrected, and
- (6.) Men who contract to fell trees and deliver timber were included in the definition "worker."

STATE ACCIDENT INSURANCE OFFICE.

A State Accident Insurance Office was established shortly after the passing of the Workers' Compensation Act for the purpose of enabling employers to obtain from the State policies of insurance indemnifying them against their liability in relation to workers' compensation. It commenced business on the day on which the Act came into operation—7th November, 1914.

The following table contains a statement of the premium income, the claims paid, and the accumulated funds for each year since the establishment of the office :—

PREMIUMS RECEIVED, CLAIMS PAID, AND ACCUMULATED FUNDS OF THE STATE ACCIDENT INSURANCE OFFICE, 1914-15 to 1924-25.

Year.	Premiums received, less Reinsurances, Rebates, &c.	Claims (including those outstanding).	Accumulated Funds.	
			General Reserve.	Bonus Reserve.
	£	£	£	£
1914-15* ..	27,502	3,006	2,750	1,494
1915-16 ..	25,647	12,370	9,750	5,459
1916-17 ..	26,249	13,977	14,750	†7,506
1917-18 ..	27,426	14,250	19,000	3,824
1918-19 ..	28,650	17,567	23,000	6,986
1919-20 ..	32,473	21,412	26,000	†10,080
1920-21 ..	39,363	26,863	28,500	2,702
1921-22 ..	42,475	26,765	32,000	6,747
1922-23 ..	50,222	26,752	38,500	†14,552
1923-24 ..	57,748	38,664	42,500	6,094
1924-25 ..	62,627	37,049	49,500	13,363

* Refers to a period of eight months only (7th November, 1914, to 30th June, 1915). Insurance was not compulsory until 7th May, 1915.

† Bonus distributed amongst policy holders in the year.

The net profit for the year amounted to £14,269, of which £7,000 has been set aside for the General Reserve Fund, and £7,269 for Bonus Reserve. The expense rate of the year 1924-25 was 13.1 per cent. This satisfactory figure is the result of careful regard to economy, and is the lowest expense rate of any insurance office in Australasia transacting Workers' Compensation Insurance business. The number of claims settled in the year mentioned and in course of settlement at the end of the year was 3,060, including 17 death claims.

It is obligatory on every employer to obtain from the **Compulsory Insurance.** State Accident Insurance Office or from an insurance company approved by the Governor in Council a policy of accident insurance for the full amount of his liability to pay compensation under the Act.

The number of insurance companies approved by the Governor in Council as at 30th June, 1925, was 60. One of the conditions of approval was that the company should deposit with the Treasurer a sum of not less than £6,000 (except in the case of subsidiary or acquired companies, where provision has been made for a smaller deposit), which sum was to be held in trust to insure the due fulfilment of policy obligations. The total amount lodged by all the companies which had been approved at the date mentioned was £335,000.

Schemes of Compensation. Up to the present (November, 1925) one scheme of compensation has been certified by a Judge of County Courts in accordance with Section 13 of the Act.

Accounts. The Revenue Account and Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 30th June, 1925, and the Balance-sheet as at the end of that year are appended :—

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Victorian Year-Book, 1924-25.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Premiums for year ..	65,113	4	4			
Less reinsurances and rebates ..	2,485	5	7			
				62,627	18	9
Provision for unearned premiums, 1924 ..				25,986	15	0
Total ..				£88,614	13	9

			£	s.	d.
Administration Expenses, Acts Nos. 2750-3217	200	0	0
Agents' Expenses and Commission	2,743	19	11
Expenses of Management, including Salaries	5,299	7	4
Net Profit	14,269	17	1
Total	£22,513	4	4

	£	s.	d.
Net Revenue, brought down	20,298	18	0
Interest on Investments and Funds at Treasury ..	2,214	6	4
Total	£22,513	4	4

			<i>Liabilities.</i>					
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Unearned Premiums	28,182	11	6
Outstanding Claims	12,692	0	0
Sundry Accounts unpaid— On account Agents	686	11	7			
Others	91	11	8			
						778	3	3
General Reserve	42,500	0	0
Bonus Reserve	6,093	19	6
Bonus Distribution Account, 1923 (amounts unclaimed)	1,075	5	2
Profit for year 1924-25 to be appropriated— To General Reserve	7,000	0	0			
Bonus Reserve	7,269	17	1			
						14,269	17	1
Total	£105,591	16	6			

		<i>Assets.</i>						
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Amount of Fund at Treasury	53,089	18	9	
Premiums due	2,270	16	4	
Treasury Interest Accrued	525	16	11	
Stamps on Hand	35	19	10	
General Reserve Fund	42,500	0	0	
Bonus Reserve Fund	6,093	19	6	
Bonus Distribution Fund, 1923—								
Balance at Bank	1,050	5	2			
Cash on hand	25	0	0			
						1,075	5	2

CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.

Charitable and reformatory institutions, &c.

The total number of organizations throughout the State which administered relief to persons in necessitous circumstances or were of a reformatory character, and which forwarded returns to the Government Statist for the year 1924, was 251. The total receipts of all the organizations were £3,778,895, of which £2,919,175 was contributed by the Government and £859,720 was received from all other sources. The total expenditure was £3,702,165. The daily average number under care indoors throughout the year in charitable and reformatory institutions was 16,148.5, and there were no less than 203,876 distinct cases of out-door relief. With regard to the out-door relief, it has been ascertained that in some institutions the "distinct cases treated" represent the actual number of persons treated; in others, they represent the actual cases of illness, accident, or disease; in these latter cases, unfortunately, the books of the institutions do not furnish the necessary particulars as to the number of distinct persons. Again, it is considered probable that some obtained relief at more than one establishment, and that some, in the course of the year, became inmates of one or other of the institutions. There is no available information upon which an estimate of the number of these duplications can be based.

The following table gives in summarized form full particulars in relation to all these charitable and reformatory institutions, and shows the number in each class, the daily average number of persons under care in the institutions, and the total number of distinct cases receiving out-door relief, together with the receipts and expenditure:—

CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS, ETC.— INMATES, RECEIPTS, AND EXPENDITURE, 1923-24.

Name of Institution, &c.	Number of Institutions.	Daily Average in-door Patients.	Out-door Relief Distinct Cases.	Receipts.			Expenditure (including Building Expenses for Year).
				From Government.	From Other Sources.	Total.	
				£	£	£	£
HOSPITALS.							
General Hospitals ..	53	2,185.4	66,925	83,912	372,502	456,414	434,222
Women's Hospital ..	1	188.8	4,617	4,186	28,816	33,002	35,890
Children's Hospital ..	1	192.5	18,257	5,120	65,189	70,309	41,604
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children ..	1	60.1	7,409	750	10,708	11,458	14,353
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives ..	1	71.0	..	6,311	525	6,836	6,836
Heatherton Sanatorium ..	1	113.8	..	5,299	6,056	11,355	10,619
Convalescent Homes ..	2	48.7	..	290	3,426	3,716	2,951
Deaf and Dumb, Blind, and Eye and Ear Institutions ..	4	392.5	15,157	4,609	43,429	48,038	45,231
Hospitals for Insane, Idiot Asylum, and Receiving Houses ..	12	6,138.0	..	371,298	47,158	418,456	418,456
Foundling Hospitals ..	2	295.5	..	5,000	9,547	14,547	13,787
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital ..	1	451.0	..	24,848	27,268	52,116	60,518
Total ..	79	10,137.3	112,365	511,623	614,624	1,126,247	1,084,467

**CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS, ETC.—INMATES,
RECEIPTS, AND EXPENDITURE, 1923-24—continued.**

Name of Institution, &c.	Number of Institu- tions.	Daily Average in-door Patients.	Out- door Relief Distinct Cases.	Receipts.			Expenditure (including Building Expenses for Year).
				From Govern- ment.	From Other Sources.	Total.	
				£	£	£	£
BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS AND SOCIETIES.							
Benevolent Asylums ..	8	1,946·6	290	25,275	64,765	90,040	69,849
Old Colonists' Association ..	1	76·5	..	..	7,874	7,874	4,250
Benevolent Societies ..	104	..	25,335	8,176	44,140	52,316	45,842
Orphan Asylums ..	10	1,644·8	..	4,100	45,667	49,767	48,596
Total ..	123	3,667·9	25,625	37,551	162,446	199,997	168,537
REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.							
Children's Welfare Depart- ment ..	13	554·0	13,520	314,815	15,794	330,609	330,609
Lara Inebriates' Institution ..	1	39·0	..	3,066	1,287	4,353	4,353
Brightside Inebriates' Insti- tution ..	1	21·8	..	253	1,633	1,886	2,218
Female Refuges ..	10	687·0	..	2,257	43,869	46,126	44,405
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	3	138·0	..	339	7,764	8,103	7,920
Prisoners' Aid Society of Victoria	1	..	736	380	549	929	1,056
Gaols and Penal Establishments	16	782·0	..	101,122	..	101,122	101,122
Total ..	45	2,221·8	14,256	422,232	70,896	493,128	491,683
MISCELLANEOUS.							
Old-age and Invalid Pensioners ..	..	..	44,823	1,947,069	..	1,947,069	1,947,069
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	1	121·5	..	650	7,483	8,133	6,808
Charity Organization Society	1	..	462	..	3,430	3,430	2,699
Free Dispensaries ..	2	..	6,345	50	841	891	902
Total ..	4	121·5	51,630	1,947,769	11,754	1,959,523	1,957,478
Grand Total..	251	16,148·5	203,876	2,919,175	859,720	3,778,895	3,702,165

**Charitable
Institutions—
receipts and
expenditure.**

The receipts of all charitable institutions for the year 1923-24 amounted to £1,730,704, of which £870,984, or 50 per cent., was contributed by Government, and the expenditure amounted to £1,653,974. Of the Government contribution, £700,789 was expended on the Receiving House for the Insane, Hospitals for the Insane, the Idiot Asylum, the Children's Welfare Department, the Greenvale and Heatherton Sanatoria for Consumptives, and the Lara Inebriates' Institution, which are Government institutions.

**Charitable
Institutions—
receipts and
expenditure,
1915-1924.**

The expenditure of charitable institutions has considerably increased during the past ten years. In 1915 it was £919,147, and it had increased to £1,653,974 in 1924. This is equivalent to an advance of about 80 per cent. The aid from Government increased by 61 per cent., and that from other sources by 146 per cent. in the period mentioned. Information in regard to the receipts and expenditure in each year of the period is given in the accompanying table :—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, 1915 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June.	Receipts.			Expenditure.			
	Govern- ment aid.	Other.	Total.	Building and extra- ordinary Repairs.	Main- tenance.	Other.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1915 ..	541,668	349,421	891,089	137,589	774,873	6,685	919,147
1916 ..	525,682	418,050	943,732	89,904	846,339	8,863	945,106
1917 ..	543,225	502,598	1,045,823	132,601	850,357	10,619	993,577
1918 ..	541,817	465,809	1,007,626	67,254	895,919	8,968	972,141
1919 ..	578,055	497,945	1,076,000	62,144	963,647	16,504	1,042,295
1920 ..	681,626	638,356	1,319,982	66,191	1,155,558	8,817	1,230,566
1921 ..	818,766	709,011	1,527,777	95,153	1,351,856	12,154	1,459,163
1922 ..	815,816	753,757	1,569,573	166,145	1,339,982	15,151	1,521,278
1923 ..	794,706	775,243	1,569,949	119,520	1,351,949	16,589	1,488,058
1924 ..	870,984	859,720	1,730,704	182,094	1,438,791	33,089	1,653,974

Charitable
Institutions
—average
cost per
inmate.

The following statement shows the average number of inmates of the respective institutions, the total cost of their maintenance, and the average cost for the year of each inmate :—

COST OF MAINTENANCE, 1923-24.

Description of Institution.	Daily average Number of Inmates.	Total Cost of Maintenance.	Average cost of each Inmate.
		£	£ s. d.
General Hospitals	2,185	337,571	154 9 11
Women's Hospital	189	28,360	150 1 1
Children's Hospital	192	32,715	170 7 10
Eye and Ear Hospital	71	10,851	152 16 7
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	60	12,300	205 0 0
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital	451	52,898	117 5 10
Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows) ...	130	3,934	30 5 3
The Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home	165	6,716	40 14 1
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives	71	6,565	92 9 4
Heatherton Sanatorium	114	10,307	90 8 3
Receiving Houses for the Insane Hospitals for the Insane	6,138	385,328	62 15 7
Idiot Asylum			
Benevolent Asylums	1,947	59,396	30 10 2
Convalescent Homes	49	2,650	54 1 8
Blind Asylums	200	5,298	26 9 10
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	121	5,558	45 18 8
Orphan Asylums	1,647	34,037	20 13 4
Children's Welfare Department	14,074*	328,737	23 7 2
Female Refuges	687	42,306	61 11 7
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	138	7,465	54 1 11
Old Colonists' Association	76	3,915	51 10 3
Lara Inebriates' Institution	39	3,957	101 9 3
Brightside Inebriates' Institution	22	2,218	100 16 4
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	121	5,210	43 1 2
Total	28,887	1,388,292	48 1 2

* Including children boarded out with their own mothers.

In calculating the average cost of each inmate the cost of treating out-patients is necessarily included, as there is no available information showing the cost of in-patients and out-patients separately.

The institutions showing the lowest average cost per inmate are the Orphan Asylums, the Children's Welfare Department, Blind Asylums, the Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows), and the Benevolent Asylums. As many of the wards of the Children's Welfare Department

cost the State nothing—maintaining themselves at service or being supported by relatives—the cost of maintenance per head shown above is not a correct indication of the burden on the public. The true cost per head of those supported by the State is somewhat higher. The average cost per inmate of the Foundling Hospitals, Female Refuges, and Salvation Army Homes would be reduced if allowance were made for mothers of infants in the Foundling Hospitals, and for infants in the other institutions mentioned.

Of the total income of charitable institutions in 1923-24 more than half was contributed by the Government, and 11 per cent. was collected from patients. The receipts of hospitals and other charitable institutions in the State under various headings are shown hereunder :—

SOURCES OF INCOME OF CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS
IN VICTORIA, 1923-24.

Receipts.	General Hospitals.	Women's Hospital.	Children's Hospital.	Eye and Ear Hospital.	Queen's Memorial Hospital.	Other Hospitals.	Other Institutions.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government Aid	83,912	4,186	5,120	2,250	24,848	5,750	744,918	870,984
Municipal Grants	16,624	557	596	371	26,592	495	9,805	55,040
Private Contributions ..	80,584	3,323	7,965	2,328	..	3,232	79,375	176,807
Proceeds of Entertainments ..	27,837	180	793	63	..	351	4,959	34,183
Legacies, Bequests, Special Donations and Proceeds of Intestate Estates ..	129,698	8,416	45,099	945	..	6,874	61,563	252,595
Hospital Sunday and Church Donations	19,395	1,934	3,304	940	..	699	2,677	28,949
Contributions of Indoor Patients	52,057	8,922	3,058	1,959	261	3,162	99,437	168,856
Out-patients' Fees	17,038	692	2,265	2,374	..	1,902	..	24,271
Proceeds of Inmates' Labour	..	..	..	..	..	..	41,567	41,567
Interest or Rent	19,214	1,553	2,079	706	300	1,013	20,374	45,239
Other Sources	10,055	3,239	30	273	115	2,527	15,974	32,213
Total	456,414	33,002	70,309	12,209	52,116	26,005	1,050,649	1,730,704

Particulars relating to the accommodation in the most important of the various classes of charitable institutions in the State are given below. The information relates to the year ended 30th June, 1924, except in the case of the

Charitable Institutions—accommodation.

Hospitals for the Insane, the Idiot Asylum, and the Children's Welfare Department, where it relates to the calendar year 1924. Of the general hospitals, six are in Melbourne, and the remainder in country towns. The accommodation available for indoor patients was as follows :—

AMOUNT OF ACCOMMODATION, 1923-24.

Description of Institution.	Number of Institutions.	Dormitories.		Number of Beds for Inmates.	Number of Cubic Feet. to each Bed.
		Number.	Capacity in Cubic Feet.		
General Hospitals ..	53	447	5,237,582	3,815	1,373
Women's Hospital ..	1	27	229,970	209	1,100
Children's Hospital ..	1	22	178,900	188	952
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children ..	1	14	59,021	65	908
Eye and Ear Hospital ..	1	16	89,298	92	971
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital ..	1	50	499,098	514	971
Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows) ..	1	7	77,876	182	428
The Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home ..	1	3	129,250	113	1,144
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives ..	1	13	58,582	90	651
Heatherton Sanatorium ..	1	14	133,660	124	1,078
Receiving Houses for the Insane ..	2	22	63,782	83	768
Hospitals for the Insane ..	9	1,268	3,651,895	5,193	703
Idiot Asylum ..	1	20	114,288	353	324
Benevolent Asylums ..	8	184	2,565,335	2,305	1,113
Convalescent Homes ..	2	22	66,810	59	1,132
Blind Asylums ..	2	15	80,912	87	930
Deaf and Dumb Asylum ..	1	4	98,037	115	852
Orphan Asylums ..	10	85	868,143	1,690	514
Children's Welfare Department ..	13	71	661,472	980	675
Female Refuges ..	10	173	630,990	805	784
Salvation Army Rescue Homes ..	3	16	84,418	173	488
Lara Inebriates' Institution ..	1	11	46,796	50	936
Brightside Inebriates' Institution ..	1	13	25,407	33	770
Talbot Colony for Epileptics ..	1	23	107,669	116	928
Total ..	126	2,540	15,759,191	17,434	904

Charitable
institutions
—inmates
and deaths.

The next statement shows the number of inmates and of deaths in these institutions :—

INMATES AND DEATHS, 1923-24.

Description of Institution.	Number of Inmates.		Number of Deaths.	Proportion of Deaths to Total Number of Inmates.
	Total during the Year.	Daily Average.		
				per cent.
General Hospitals	34,691	2,185·4	3,157	9·1
Women's Hospital	5,568	188·8	94	1·7
Children's Hospital	3,885	192·5	462	11·9
Eye and Ear Hospital	1,702	71·2	6	·4
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	1,236	60·1	42	3·4
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital	4,331	451·0	119	2·7
Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows)	209	130·5	20	9·6
Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home	239	165·0	5	2·1
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives	268	71·0	5	1·9
Heatherton Sanatorium	319	113·8	93	29·2
Receiving Houses for the Insane	855	72·5	27	3·2
Hospitals for the Insane	6,940	5,676·0	402	5·8
Idiot Asylum	434	389·5	29	6·7
Benevolent Asylums	3,736	1,946·6	542	14·5
Convalescent Homes	887	48·7	..	..
Blind Asylums	228	200·4	7	3·1
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	141	120·9	..	..
Orphan Asylums	2,198	1,644·8	6	·3
Children's Welfare Department	14,892	14,074·0	40	·3
Female Refuges	1,282	687·0	13	1·0
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	450	138·0	3	·7
Old Colonists' Association	86	76·5	7	8·1
Lara Inebriates' Institution	230	39·0	..	..
Brightside Inebriates' Institution	71	21·8	..	..
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	147	121·5	1	·7
Total	85,025	28,886·5	5,080	6·0

In addition to the inmates shown in the above table, there were 45 mothers of infants in the Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home, 74 mothers of infants in St. Joseph's Foundling Hospital, Broadmeadows, 307 infants in the Female Refuges, and 193 infants in Salvation Army Homes during the year.

The following statement contains particulars as to the number of beds, the number of patients treated, and the deaths which occurred in general hospitals during the year 1923-24. The receipts, distinguishing moneys received from the Government and from other sources, and the expenditure per head for

Patients
treated, etc.,
in hospitals.

maintenance (based on the average number of indoor patients) are also shown :—

**NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED IN GENERAL HOSPITALS;
ALSO DEATHS, TOTAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE
PER HEAD FOR MAINTENANCE, 1923-24.**

Hospital.	Number of Beds.	Total Indoor Patients treated during Year.	Average Daily Number of Indoor Patients treated.	Number of Deaths.	Receipts.			Expenditure per Head for Maintenance.
					From Government.	Other.	Total.	
					£	£	£	£ s. d.
Amherst ..	100	389	69.0	23	3,289	1,210	4,499	59 11 11
Ararat ..	60	506	27.4	39	900	2,371	3,271	125 7 4
Baringsdale ..	39	458	26.6	37	550	2,733	3,283	115 6 0
Ballarat ..	192	1,332	73.5	117	2,600	15,455	18,055	117 5 7
Beechworth ..	95	278	16.1	23	550	2,036	2,586	127 15 3
Bendigo ..	222	1,492	88.1	153	4,010	9,867	13,877	172 16 4
Castlemaine ..	75	332	24.8	33	960	2,867	3,827	117 18 10
Colac ..	66	690	33.2	42	820	3,353	4,173	137 8 10
Daylesford ..	52	162	18.0	18	375	1,423	1,798	112 13 4
Echuca ..	46	430	22.7	32	600	1,568	2,168	91 11 9
Geelong ..	217	1,302	67.5	94	2,375	9,019	11,394	156 8 11
Hamilton ..	91	673	34.3	25	1,007	3,485	4,492	151 19 8
Horsham ..	40	435	22.4	19	535	5,932	6,467	129 3 11
Kyneton ..	54	357	27.0	31	600	2,573	3,173	99 11 10
Maryborough ..	95	423	25.3	21	850	1,868	2,718	106 8 1
Melbourne ..	358	7,126	395.0	1,001	22,433	76,453	98,891	210 5 9
Alfred ..	340	4,002	175.5	361	9,800	56,775	66,575	246 7 10
Austin ..	293	574	264.9	225	5,800	38,091	43,891	108 18 2
Homoeopathic ..	73	1,063	61.2	78	1,600	16,982	18,582	221 5 6
St. Vincent's ..	120	2,638	128.0	167	5,750	31,608	37,358	188 7 4
Mildura ..	46	831	46.0	54	800	4,780	5,580	139 15 8
Mooroopna ..	104	1,299	81.6	71	1,400	6,544	7,944	89 6 3
Sale ..	68	968	55.5	74	1,000	7,207	8,207	103 8 10
Stawell ..	66	297	16.5	19	400	2,404	2,804	135 6 8
St. Arnaud ..	50	579	30.0	39	3,150	12,749	15,899	108 16 8
Swan Hill ..	52	388	26.4	31	650	4,170	4,820	122 11 6
Wangaratta ..	65	721	42.3	35	1,000	3,709	4,709	86 12 5
Warragul ..	45	458	23.6	31	860	3,726	4,586	113 12 11
Warrnambool ..	92	462	35.2	27	3,900	4,986	8,886	107 3 9
Williamstown ..	30	342	26.9	26	100	2,628	2,728	83 10 10
Wonthaggi ..	28	391	18.9	27	..	3,556	3,556	198 10 4
Other Hospitals	541	3,293	188.0	184	5,243	30,374	35,617	153 3 2
Total ..	3,815	34,691	2185.4	3,157	83,912	372,502	456,414	154 9 4

* 22 in number.

HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES ACT 1922.

An Act (No. 3260) to amend the law relating to the management of hospitals and charities in the State of Victoria was passed by the State Parliament in the year 1922. Its principal provisions are as follows :—

Part I. provides for the appointment by the Governor in Council of a Board to be called the Charities Board of Victoria and to consist of 14 members, which is to be constituted as under :—

- (a) Four persons to be nominated by the body known as the Metropolitan Hospitals Association, one at least of whom is to be a legally qualified medical practitioner ;

- (b) Four persons to be nominated by the body known as the Country Hospitals Association, one at least of whom is to be a legally qualified medical practitioner ;
- (c) Two persons to be appointed from persons nominated by the committees of subsidized institutions and benevolent societies within the metropolis (other than hospitals), one at least of whom is to be a woman ;
- (d) Two persons to be appointed from persons nominated by the committees of subsidized institutions and benevolent societies outside of the metropolis (other than hospitals), one at least of whom is to be a woman ;
- (e) Two other persons, one of whom is to be appointed as a member of the Metropolitan Standing Committee and the other as a member of the Country Standing Committee to be provided for under the Act.

The duties of the Board are from time to time to make such inquiries as it thinks fit and to report to the Minister as to :—

- (a) What charitable relief is required to meet the needs of the diseased, infirm, incurable, poor, or destitute persons resident in Victoria (including children and convalescent patients) ;
- (b) What institutions or benevolent societies should in the opinion of the Board be subsidized ;
- (c) What sum of money should in the opinion of the Board be paid from the Fund, and for what purposes, to each subsidized institution or benevolent society in any financial year ; and
- (d) Any amendments of existing legislation and proposals for future legislation which are in its opinion desirable for carrying into effect any of the objects or purposes referred to in the Act, and in particular for improvement in and the prevention of overlapping in the administration of institutions and benevolent societies.

Special powers of the Board include the closing of any subsidized institution including a benevolent society (not being a separate institution) and the amalgamation of any two or more subsidized institutions (not being separate institutions). Before the Board can exercise the power of closing an institution it must be satisfied that the institution or benevolent society is seriously mismanaged or that the funds thereof are substantially applied otherwise than for affording the relief for which the institution or benevolent society exists, or that the accommodation provided is defective, insanitary, or unsuitable, or that relief can be provided more effectively and economically by some other institution or benevolent society. All institutions existing before the commencement of the Act must be registered within six months of a date to be

fixed by the Board, and every institution established subsequently must register in order to participate in any grant or aid of any kind from the Consolidated Revenue or from any municipality. A non-registered charity will not be allowed to appeal or apply to any person or body of persons for any contributions towards its funds.

A fund called "The Hospitals and Charities Fund" is kept in the Treasury. To this fund the Government contributed a sum of £128,163 for the financial year 1923-24, and £156,548 for 1924-25. The salary of an Inspector of Charities, who has been appointed under the Act, together with the remuneration of other necessary officers and expenses, are paid out of the fund. Subject to these payments the fund may be applied to the establishment or maintenance of subsidized institutions or benevolent societies, the cost of the erection of new buildings or of repairs, additions, alterations, or equipment of existing buildings used for the purposes of any subsidized institution or for any other prescribed purposes. Matters to be considered in making payments out of the fund are the financial position of each institution or benevolent society, and the amount likely to be contributed to it during the next financial year otherwise than from the fund, the probable net receipts and expenditure of that financial year, also the actual number of persons relieved by it, the average number of beds (if any) occupied, the average length of stay of patients, and the average cost per bed during the preceding financial year.

Other sections relate to restrictions on certain means of raising money for institutions, the incorporation and government of hospitals and philanthropic institutions generally, the liability of patients to contribute for the relief afforded them according to their means, and the power to resume land required for institutions in the manner provided by the *Lands Compensation Act 1915*.

Since the appointment of the Board some important reforms have been given effect to. The Caulfield Military Hospital has been taken over from the Defence Department and will be managed by the Melbourne Hospital. The whole of the Metropolitan General Hospitals are co-operating in the scheme, and have agreed, after the subsidies provided have been exhausted, to recompense the Melbourne Hospital for net expenditure on a proportionate basis of available beds in the respective institutions for the types of patients likely to be sent to Caulfield, viz., adult medical and surgical. To put the institution in working order substantial financial assistance was received from the Government. The official opening took place on 13th May, 1925, and 50 beds were at once made available. The number was subsequently increased to 100 beds and it is probable that further additional beds will have to be provided.

During the year 1924-25 patients to the number of 145 were transferred from the metropolitan area to vacant accommodation in country

institutions. This was done in order to make available more beds in the metropolitan area. In all cases the transfers were acquiesced in by the patients.

A standard has been set as the minimum requirements for a base hospital in the country. The number of occupied beds is to be not fewer than 50, giving in addition to general medical and surgical accommodation, beds for midwifery and children, each at least 5 per cent. of total accommodation. Fully established and equipped Out-Patients' Department to be established, available to patients at any time in case of emergency, and with at least tri-weekly attendance of honorary medical officer. Equipped sub-departments of radiology, pathology and bacteriology, massage, and other sub-departments to be maintained as the needs arise. Honorary attending medical officers to be elected to the various positions for a fixed term; applications to be called publicly. A training school for nurses to be in operation. The hospitals proposed to be raised to base grade, are:—Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Hamilton, Horsham, Mildura, Mooroopna, Sale and Warrnambool. The committees of the larger provincial hospitals have adopted the Board's proposals, and plans have been approved of or are under consideration for the structural alterations or additions required. In Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Mildura, Mooroopna and Warrnambool the works are in hand; at Horsham plans are completed whilst, at Hamilton and Sale schemes are under consideration. It is anticipated that within two years the nine hospitals concerned will be completed and equipped up to full base standard. When this is accomplished country patients will be able to take advantage of local facilities and thus relieve to a considerable extent the demand on metropolitan institutions. Each base hospital and the district hospitals at Daylesford, Stawell and Echuca have agreed to the Board's proposals to establish midwifery wards.

Combined hospitals and benevolent asylums have ceased to exist, and asylum patients have been transferred to appropriate institutions. The authorities of the hospitals affected are unanimous in the opinion that the decision of the Board has been attended with advantage to the patients and the institutions concerned.

Efforts are being made to improve public dispensaries and to install proper ambulance services in country districts, but so far without success.

During the year 1924-25 continuous representations have been made by the Board to secure the reservation of the Parkville site for the provision of a hospital adequate for the demands of the districts north of the Yarra. The Faculty of Medicine of the Melbourne University has advocated the urgent need for a teaching hospital in connexion with the medical school and it is considered that if a hospital were built on this site this purpose would be satisfactorily served.

With regard to intermediate hospitals the Board is of opinion that these institutions should be established as adjuncts to existing hospitals and that the details of management be subject to conditions prescribed by regulations.

It is considered that institutions which exist for the welfare of orphans and neglected or destitute children should wherever practicable be under the care of religious organizations.

The suggestion is made that the organization of local relief should be vested in the municipal authorities operating in conjunction with the ladies' benevolent societies.

The origin of this institution belongs to the very earliest days of Melbourne. The *Year-Books* for 1915-16 and 1916-17 contain a statement of the circumstances associated with the foundation of the hospital in 1846, and a reference to its rebuilding in recent years.

**Melbourne
Hospital.**

It has always been the principal general hospital of Victoria, and the chief medical training school for University students. The wards now contain normally 358 beds. The number of in-patients treated in 1923-24 was 7,126, the daily average number being 395. In the out-patients' and casualty departments 45,080 persons were treated in that year. The aggregate number of attendances of out-patients was 215,959.

The usefulness of the Melbourne Hospital since its inauguration may be judged from the work carried out. The in-patients treated to 30th June, 1924, numbered 305,641, and the out-patients, 1,348,299.

In 1923-24 the Government grant for maintenance amounted to £22,438; the revenue derived from municipal grants was £1,375; private contributions amounted to £23,518; revenue from entertainments in aid to £175; bequests to £18,029; Hospital Sunday collections to £5,758; payments and contributions by indoor patients to £10,485; and out-patients' fees to £7,360; interest yielded a revenue of £8,534; and £3,219 was received from all other sources. The receipts for the twelve months reached a total of £98,891 and the expenditure was £94,005.

The Melbourne Hospital is also a training school for nurses, and has a nursing staff of 165. Attached to the hospital is the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Research in Pathology and Medicine, which is endowed by the Trustees of the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust. The Institute is proving of valuable assistance in the many lines of research which are being conducted by an efficient and highly-trained staff.

**Alfred
Hospital.**

In the year 1868 a large committee of Melbourne citizens decided that the establishment of a second general hospital for Melbourne had become imperatively necessary. A site comprising 13 acres within the municipality of Prahran was secured, and the foundation stone of "The Prince Alfred Hospital" (so named in commemoration of the escape from assassination of Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh,) was laid in March, 1869. In May, 1871, the hospital was opened, the buildings being added to in 1885. In 1921 an extensive scheme of building expansion was approved, subject to

funds becoming available. Since then remarkable progress has taken place. The whole of the original buildings have been remodelled and enlarged, while many buildings, including new wards, operating theatres, research and investigation departments, a fine new nurses' home, and important additions to existing buildings have been erected. The cost of works carried out in this scheme of expansion up to the end of June, 1925, was £134,000. The hospital is recognized by the Melbourne University as a clinical school for medical students, and is also a training school for nurses. On 30th June, 1925, there were 340 beds and cots in the Institution. The total number of in-patients who received treatment during the year 1923-24 was 4,002, and during 1924-25 the number was 6,079. In the out-patients and casualty departments, 27,534 persons were treated in 1923-24, while in 1924-25 the total was 32,281. The attendances of these patients rose in number from 95,415 in 1923-24 to 129,633 in 1924-25. The total of the receipts for the year 1924-25 in all the accounts was £65,823. The principal items of receipt were Government grants, £10,000; municipal grants, £1,196; private contributions, £6,220; revenue from entertainments in aid, £1,015; Hospital Sunday collections, £1,336; Lord Mayor's Fund, £1,596; in-door patients' fees, £7,142; out-door patients' fees, £6,180; interest, £1,210; visitors' contributions, £3,725; special donations and bequests, £15,656; and miscellaneous, £3,453 (including £1,029 Government on account V.D. Clinic). The total expenditure on maintenance was £55,225, and in addition £20,623 was spent on buildings, furniture, fittings, &c. The Alfred Hospital was equipped early in 1924 with a powerful wireless receiving plant, with installation throughout the different wards, enabling most of the patients to receive the benefit of wireless broad-casting by means of individual head telephone sets. The Hospital is recognized by the University of Melbourne as a clinical school for gynaecology and the diseases of children. During 1925, extensive additions were made to the X-ray pavilion and a fine new building for the bio-chemistry department was erected and equipped. Important additions to the out-patients building are in progress.

The Alfred Hospital has a very fine clinic for the treatment of venereal diseases, the institution being the first in this State to establish such a department.

Other Hospitals, &c. Statements showing the nature of the work performed by other hospitals, societies, &c., are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 568 to 582, and 586.

HEALTH ACT 1919.

The main features of this Act are given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 383 to 385.

SANATORIA FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

Greenvale Sanatorium.

The Greenvale Sanatorium at Broadmeadows for incipient and early stage cases was opened for the reception of patients on 10th May, 1905. It was established by the Government, and is under the control of the Public Health Department. Females only are now admitted to the institution, and provision is made for 90 patients. During the year ended 31st December, 1924, 250 patients were treated at the sanatorium, 72 of these being cases admitted during the previous year. Of this number, 30 did very well and were discharged apparently cured or greatly benefited, 52 were discharged benefited but with the disease not arrested, and 48 were discharged not benefited or incurable. Coupled with the last-mentioned cases were other patients who were discharged either at their own request after a brief stay, or for disciplinary reasons, and some who were sent in for a short period for educational purposes, making a total of 62. Five deaths occurred during the year. At the end of the period under review there were 53 patients remaining under care. The benefits of treatment and education that the institution affords to cases of consumption in the early stages have now been received by 5,343 patients. Of these, 3,324 had the disease arrested or their condition much improved; 1,037 were not benefited or were incurable; 108 died; and 821 left of their own accord. A most important function of the institution is the teaching of patients how to avoid communicating the disease to others. Immediately after the admission of a patient to the sanatorium the house or room vacated is disinfected under the supervision of the municipal council of the district, a centre of infection being thus removed.

Amherst and Heatherton Sanatoria.

The Amherst Sanatorium, for early-stage cases, is maintained by the Government and administered by the local hospital authorities under the direction of the Public Health Department. It is now reserved for the treatment of males only, and there is, ordinarily, accommodation at the institution for 60 patients but supplementary accommodation is provided when necessary. During the year 1924, 213 patients were treated, of whom 130 were discharged with the disease arrested or their condition much improved; 6 left of their own accord; 5 left, not benefited; 5 died; and 67 remained under treatment at the end of the year. Sanatorium treatment has now been received by 2,314 patients. Of these, 1,911 were discharged cured or relieved; 83 left of their own accord; 193 were incurable; 60 died; and 67 remained on 31st December, 1924.

There is a sanatorium for intermediate and advanced cases of both sexes at Heatherton, near Cheltenham, adjacent to the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum. The sanatorium now contains 124 beds. There were on 1st January, 1924, 119 persons in the institution, and the

number admitted during the succeeding twelve months was 174, making a total of 293 who received treatment during the year 1924. Of these, 102 were discharged, 72 died, and 119 were under care at the end of the year.

With regard to other cases of advanced consumption, 158 beds are provided at the Austin Hospital.

St. John Ambulance Association. The work carried on by this Association is referred to in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 582. Its objects are to instruct all classes of people in the preliminary treatment of the sick and the injured. Full information in regard to the formation of classes may be obtained from the secretary, Mr. J. Harold Lord, 217 Lonsdale-street, Melbourne. (Telephone, Central 1370.)

Victorian Civil Ambulance Service. This service attended to 10,382 calls, of which 1,588 were accidents, during the year ended 30th June, 1925; the mileage travelled was 100,497. In 1,522 cases no fee was paid. Country trips, to the number of 736 (one of over 200 miles), were undertaken during the year. The decentralisation of the service has commenced by the inauguration of Ambulance Stations at Preston and Hawthorn, with the intention of extending same to all suburban areas.

In addition, eleven Country Ambulance Stations have been successfully opened and operated since March, 1923, with a view to providing ambulance facilities throughout all districts in Victoria.

The registered office and head dépôt is situated at 217 Lonsdale-street, Melbourne. (Telephone, Central 121.)

Charity Organization Society. A statement of the objects of this society appears in the *Year-Book* 1916-17, page 583.

The income and outgo for the year ended 30th June, 1925, were—Administration Account (for payment of all general expenses of management as well as all charges connected with the administration of the trust and relief funds)—Receipts, £1,456; expenditure, £1,779; Trust Account (being donations for special applicants and objects)—Receipts, £2,203; expenditure, £1,187; Emergency Relief Account—Donations and refunds, £177; expenditure, £216. The number of separate cases dealt with during the year was 2,490, of which 1,220 had not previously come under the notice of the society. The total number of cases actually investigated was 1,503. During the year under review 134 men and women obtained temporary or permanent employment through the Society's assistance, and about 334 men were provided with work at the Society's wood-yard. The records of the Society now contain more than 34,000 social histories of distressed families and individuals.

Royal Humane Society.

The Royal Humane Society of Australasia was established in 1874 under the name of "The Victoria Humane Society." Its objects are as follows:—(1) To bestow awards on all who promptly risk their lives to save those of their fellow-creatures; (2) To provide assistance, as far as it is in the power of the society, in all cases of apparent death occurring in any part of Australasia; (3) To restore the apparently drowned or dead, and to distinguish by awards all who, through skill and perseverance, are successful; (4) To collect and circulate information regarding the most approved methods and the best apparatus to be used for such purposes.

During the year ended 30th June, 1925, 92 applications for awards were investigated, with the result that 17 certificates, 34 bronze medals, 14 silver and 2 gold medals were granted. The receipts during 1924-25 amounted to £522, and the expenditure to £439. The institution has placed and maintains 343 life-buoys at various places on the coast, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs throughout all the Australian States and Fiji. The society has 156 honorary correspondents residing as follows:—54 in Victoria, 35 in New South Wales, 25 in New Zealand, 28 in Queensland, 8 in Tasmania, 3 in South Australia, and 3 in Western Australia.

Swimming competitions have been inaugurated in the schools of the Commonwealth, and awards of medals and certificates are made to those pupils who attain proficiency in exercises which have special reference to saving life from drowning. The society makes a special feature of the development of swimming and life saving proficiency.

Royal Life Saving Society.

With a desire to minimize the great loss of life from drowning a society was established in Melbourne in 1904 entitled the "Royal Life Saving Society." Its objects are:—(1) To promote technical education in life saving and resuscitation of the apparently drowned; (2) To stimulate public opinion in favour of the general adoption of swimming and life saving as a branch of instruction in schools, colleges, &c.; (3) To encourage floating, diving, plunging, and such other swimming arts as would be of assistance to a person endeavouring to save life; (4) To arrange and promote public lectures, demonstrations and competitions, and to form classes of instruction, so as to bring about a widespread and thorough knowledge of the principles which underlie the art of natation; (5) To arrange and promote lectures, motion picture exhibitions, demonstrations and competitions, and compile and disseminate propaganda literature for the purpose of educating the members of the community in the principles of avoiding and preventing accidents of all kinds.

The work done by the society has increased greatly since its inauguration, and in 1924-25 the awards granted totalled 2,107. This number

is considerably larger than in 1923-24, when the awards totalled 963, but the increase is partly accounted for by the fact that the report of the society for 1923-24 dealt with the operations for a period of only ten months, instead of twelve months as in 1924-25. The whole of the State schools in Victoria have become affiliated to the society, and it is expected that the awards will be considerably increased as the result of this connexion.

Society for the Protection of Animals. The objects of this society are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 589. During the year ended 30th June, 1924, 3,653 cases were dealt with by it, of which 2,974 were connected with cruelty to horses. There were 296 prosecutions in cases of deliberate cruelty, in nearly all of which the law was vindicated by the punishment of the offenders. The receipts for the year amounted to £6,540, and the expenditure to £3,533.

Lord Mayor's Fund. The initiation of the movement to assist in the maintenance of the Metropolitan Hospitals and Charities, which resulted in the inauguration of the Lord Mayor's Fund, is credited to the late Sir J. W. Swanson, K.B., a former Lord Mayor of Melbourne. The first definite step to make the fund a permanent one was taken in April, 1923, when a chief executive officer and organizing secretary was appointed. An important feature of the first year's work was the merging of the Hospital Saturday Fund in the Lord Mayor's Fund. No change was made in regard to the constitution or administrative functions of the Hospital Sunday committee. The receipts and disbursements of the Lord Mayor's Fund from 1st July, 1924, to 30th June, 1925, are given hereunder :—

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE LORD MAYOR'S FUND, 1ST JULY, 1924, TO 30TH JUNE, 1925.

Receipts	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	£		£
Hospital Saturday (1924) ..	13,205	Distributions made to	
General donations.. ..	1,052	Institutions from General	
Police Carnival	2,827	Fund	18,854
Flower Day	2,577	Distributions to specified	
Old-time Footballers Match..	1,893	donees	19,040
Donations for specified in-		Salaries of secretary and staff	1,503
stitutions	19,040	Miscellaneous	1,208
Other	399	Surplus	388
Total	40,993		40,993

The amounts allocated to the various charitable institutions in 1924-25 from the Lord Mayor's Fund, including Hospital Saturday receipts, and from the Hospital Sunday Fund were as follows :—

Institution.	From Lord Mayor's Fund.	From Hospital Sunday Fund.	Total.
	£	£	£
Melbourne Hospital	6,035	3,144	9,179
Alfred Hospital	2,264	1,280	3,544
Children's Hospital	2,446	1,159	3,605
Women's Hospital	1,873	1,071	2,944
Austin Hospital	1,640	975	2,615
St. Vincent's Hospital	1,666	971	2,637
Melbourne Benevolent Asylum	1,191	872	2,063
Queen Victoria Hospital	910	291	1,201
Homœopathic Hospital	1,019	344	1,363
Melbourne Ladies' Benevolent Society	1,657	..	1,657
Eye and Ear Hospital	1,421	411	1,832
Williamstown Hospital	366	80	446
Melbourne District Nursing Society	454	122	576
Salvation Army	312	..	312
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	557	166	723
St. John Ambulance Association	281	..	281
Other institutions	13,803	659	14,462
Total distributed	37,895	11,545	49,440

Hospital Saturday and Sunday. In Melbourne and suburbs the last Saturday and Sunday of October in each year are set apart for making collections for the Hospital Saturday and Sunday Funds. The following amounts were collected in each of the last nine years :—1916, £18,525 ; 1917, £19,020 ; 1918, £22,447 ; 1919, £18,586 ; 1920, £19,750 ; 1921, £29,723 ; 1922, £20,368 (including a bequest of £2,461 from the estate of a deceased person) ; 1923, £24,013 ; and 1924, £30,100. The amount distributed in 1924 was £27,900.

The total amount which has been collected since the movement was inaugurated in 1873 is £549,431.

Wattle Day. On a day fixed, about the middle of August in each year, ladies attired in white costumes sell sprigs of wattle blossom in the streets and elsewhere, and the amounts obtained are allotted to charities for children. The sums which have been raised each year during the last eleven years are as follows :—1914, £2,115 ; 1915, £2,553 ; 1916, £3,604 ; 1917, £7,000 ; 1918 £7,238 ; 1919, £5,393 ; 1920,

£4,304; 1921, £5,951; 1922, £5,293; 1923, £6,674; and 1924, £7,645. From 1915 to 1920 the Wattle Day collection was organized and controlled by the Commonwealth Button Fund, and emblematic "buttons" and badges were sold in addition to wattle blossom. The Commonwealth Button Fund was wound up in January, 1921, and the organization of the annual Wattle Day appeal is now undertaken by the Children's Welfare Association, 149 Swanston-street, Melbourne. This association consists of all the societies participating in the appeal, and its work is carried out by a body of voluntary assistants. From 1923 Mrs. J. S. Winter is the hon. organiser for the movement.

INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

Federal Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act. These pensions are payable by the Commonwealth Government under an act passed in 1908 and amending acts. The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contains, on pages 591 to 597, information relating to the amounts of pensions payable and the persons entitled to receive them. The amounts have since been increased.

The maximum pension, whether old-age or invalid, is £1 per week. This rate was paid from 8th October, 1925. The commencing age for old-age pensions is 65 years in the case of men (60 years where a man is permanently incapacitated for work) and 60 years in the case of women.

The number of old-age and invalid pensioners in Victoria on 30th June, 1925, was as follows:—Old-age pensioners—men, 12,713; women, 21,132; total, 33,845. Invalid pensioners—men, 5,973; women, 6,977; total, 12,950.

Of the persons living in Victoria at or above the ages at which old-age pensions commence, 30 per cent. were receiving pensions on 30th June, 1925.

Pensioners, 1901 to 1923-24. The State system of old-age pensions came into force on 18th January, 1901, and the highest number of pensioners was reached in November, 1901, when 16,300 were on the register. Alterations in the Act in the direction of compelling relatives, when in a position to do so, to support applicants for pensions had the effect of reducing the number to 10,732 in 1907. On 1st July, 1909, when the Federal Act came into operation, there were 12,368 old-age pensioners in Victoria. Thereafter the number rapidly increased, and on 30th June, 1925, it had reached a total of 33,845

(exclusive of invalid pensioners). The number of old-age and invalid pensioners at the end of each financial year from the inception of the system and the amount expended each year are shown in the following statement :—

OLD-AGE AND INVALID PENSIONERS IN VICTORIA.
1901 TO 1925.

Financial Year.	Number of Pensioners at end of Period.			Actual Amount Paid in Pensions.
	Old-Age.	Invalid.	Total.	
18th January to 30th June, 1901 (under State Act)	16,275	...	16,275	£ 129,338
1901-2	14,570	...	14,570	292,432
1902-3	12,417	...	12,417	215,973
1903-4	11,609	...	11,609	205,150
1904-5	11,209	...	11,209	200,464
1905-6	10,990	...	10,990	189,127
1906-7	10,732	...	10,732	187,793
1907-8	11,288	...	11,288	233,573
1908-9	12,368	...	12,368	270,827
1909-10 (under Federal Act)...	20,218	...	20,218	470,656
1910-11 " " ...	23,722	2,272	25,994	573,699
1911-12 " " ...	24,449	3,162	27,611	672,593
1912-13 " " ...	25,434	3,918	29,352	715,924
1913-14 " " ...	27,150	4,844	31,994	795,449
1914-15 " " ...	28,365	6,054	34,419	839,718
1915-16 " " ...	28,446	6,869	35,315	908,159
1916-17 " " ...	29,064	7,921	36,985	1,070,386
1917-18 " " ...	29,159	8,901	38,060	1,168,498
1918-19 " " ...	29,179	9,337	38,516	1,199,787
1919-20 " " ...	29,565	10,277	39,842	1,348,100*
1920-21 " " ...	30,385	11,171	41,559	1,533,430*
1921-22 " " ...	30,958	11,444	42,402	1,581,898*
1922-23 " " ...	31,248	11,707	42,955	1,589,362*
1923-24 " " ...	32,603	12,220	44,823	1,947,069*
1924-25 " " ...	33,845	12,950	46,795	2,027,202*

* This includes payments of pensions of 2s. per week (increased to 3s. per week from 13th September, 1923) to inmates of Benevolent Asylums. There were 1,165 such pensions in force on 30th June, 1925.

An act was passed by the Federal Parliament in October, 1912, providing for the payment, on application, of £5 to the mother of every child born in the Commonwealth on and after 10th October, 1912. The number of claims granted in Victoria to 30th June, 1925, was 443,119, and the total of the allowances paid in the State to that date was £2,215,595.

For the year ended 30th June, 1925, the number of claims granted was 36,971, and the amount paid in allowances, £184,855.

Maternity Allowance.

LUNACY DEPARTMENT.**Lunacy
Department.**

The subjoined table sets forth the numbers under the care of the Department for the years 1923 and 1924 :—

**INSANE PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS OF THE LUNACY
DEPARTMENT, 31ST DECEMBER, 1923 AND 1924.**

	On 31st December—		Increase (+). Decrease (—).
	1923.	1924.	
In State Hospitals	5,341	5,366	+ 25
On Trial Leave from State Hospitals ..	551	600	+ 49
Boarded Out	134	130	- 4
In Licensed Houses	81	79	- 2
On Trial Leave from Licensed Houses ..	16	16	
Total Number of Registered Insane ..	6,123	6,191	+ 68
In Receiving Institutions	81	72	- 9
Total	6,204	6,263	+ 59

Voluntary Boarders	63	62	- 1
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Cases of Mental Disorder in Returned Soldiers (not included in other statistics)	127	133	+ 6
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The number of admissions to Hospitals for Insane for each of the years 1920 to 1924 is given below :—

Year.	First Admissions.			Re-admissions.			Total Admissions.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
1920	421	354	775	44	45	89	864
1921	341	335	676	42	84	126	802
1922	388	330	718	46	74	120	838
1923	379	284	663	91	73	164	827
1924	349	314	663	53	93	146	809

The voluntary boarders are not included in the above figures. The number of such boarders admitted during the last eight years was as follows:—140 in 1917, 163 in 1918, 167 in 1919, 193 in 1920, 198 in 1921, 176 in 1922, 173 in 1923 and 202 in 1924.

There does not appear to be any noteworthy departure from the normal in the statistics of the year 1924, except that there has been a diminution in the number of males admitted and remaining, whilst there is an increase in the female numbers. This has been more or less the case for the last four years, and is an indication that the population of Victoria is becoming, in numbers at least, increasingly feminine.

Whilst there has been a decrease in the number of deaths, the discharges have remained stationary, but those out on trial leave or probation from the State Institutions have increased, so that an addition of 68 in the numbers of the registered insane is accounted for.

There were 62 voluntary boarders and 133 cases of mental disorder in returned soldiers under the care of the Department at the end of the year. During the year 1924, 202 persons applied for voluntary treatment to one or other of the Institutions in or under the inspection of the Department.

With a substantial increase in the population of the State and what may be regarded as a stationary lunacy rate, the ratio of insane to population is now 1 to 268 as against 1 in 249 in the year 1908.

CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

Neglected and reformatory children. There were at the end of 1924 two industrial and four reformatory schools in the State. Two of these (one industrial and one reformatory school) are wholly maintained and managed by the Government, and are used merely as receiving and distributing dépôts, the children being sent as soon as possible after admission thereto to foster homes or situations, or to other institutions for dealing with State wards. The other schools are under private management and receive a capitation allowance from the Government for those inmates who are wards of the Children's Welfare Department. Many of the inmates of the reformatories are either placed with friends or licensed out. The wards of the State on 31st December, 1924, numbered 6,488—6,363

neglected and 125 reformatory children—and there were 26 others, free from legal control, who, being incapacitated, were maintained by the State. The following table shows the number of neglected and reformatory children under control at the end of each of the last five years :—

NEGLECTED AND REFORMATORY CHILDREN, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	NUMBER OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN AT THE END OF THE YEAR.					Total Neglected Children.
	Boarded Out.	Placed with friends on Probation.	Maintaining themselves at Service or Apprenticed.	In Institutions (including Hospitals)	Visiting Relatives, &c.	
1920 ...	4,128	1,021	448	497	...	*6,094
1921 ...	4,281	860	458	498	7	*6,104
1922 ...	4,189	904	434	515	5	*6,047
1923 ...	4,133	1,172	431	510	1	*6,247
1924 ...	4,123	1,263	480	495	2	*6,363

Year.	NUMBER OF REFORMATORY CHILDREN AT THE END OF THE YEAR.					Total Reformatory Children.
	In Reformatory Schools.	Placed with Relatives.	Maintaining themselves at Service.	In Institutions (including Hospitals).	Visiting Relatives, &c.	
1920 ...	86	30	13	3	...	132
1921 ...	78	13	27	4	...	122
1922 ...	65	23	29	3	1	121
1923 ...	64	22	26	1	...	113
1924 ..	75	30	19	...	1	125

* Under the provisions of section 9 of the *Children's Maintenance Act* 1919, 5,392 children who had previously been committed as "neglected" children and boarded out to their mothers, were discharged as wards of the State, but payments for their maintenance were continued to the mothers. At the end of 1924 there were 7,660 such children.

The welfare of the children boarded out is cared for by **Children boarded out, &c.** honorary committees, who send to the Department reports as to their general condition. The rate paid by the Government to persons accepting charge of these children is 12s. 6d. per week for children under 18 months, and 8s. per week for those over that age. These rates have been payable since 1st December, 1921. For the previous twelve months the rates were 11s. 6d. per week for children under 12 months, and 8s. per week for those of an

older age. Children from either industrial or reformatory schools may be placed with friends on probation, without wages, or at service.

Children committed to the care of the State, 1924. The circumstances leading to the commitment of children to the care of the Department in 1924 were as follows :—

Cases in which Parents were held to be—	Number.
Blamable—One Parent—	
Father deserted and mother an invalid	2
" " " dead	22
" " " in hospital	2
" " " poor	175
" drunkard	18
" in gaol	10
" " " dead	1
" unknown	4
" " " poor	42
Mother deserted and father dead	9
" " " poor	13
" drunkard	1
" of doubtful character and father poor	6
" " " " dead ...	4
Both Parents—	
Father drunkard and mother drunkard	3
" unknown	7
" " " of doubtful character	10
Parents deserted	8
" of doubtful character	15
" unknown	11
Total	363
Blameless—Both Parents—	
Father an invalid and mother dead	4
" " " poor	18
" dead and mother poor	73
" " " in hospital	3
" in asylum; and mother poor	4
" " " dead	2
" " " invalid	2
" " " doubtful	1
" hospital	3
" " " poor	2
" poor	46
" " " in asylum	5
" " " an invalid	7
Parents poor	258
" dead	91
Total	519
Total number of children placed under control during the year..	882

CHILDREN'S MAINTENANCE ACT 1919, No. 3001.

A statement of the principal provisions of this Act is given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 395 and 396. For the twelve months ended 31st December, 1924, assistance was granted under the Children's Maintenance Act in respect of 2,088 children, and 7,660 children were boarded out to their mothers at the end of the year, an increase of 19 as compared with the number at the end of the previous year, viz., 7,641.

The following statement shows the number of wards of the State and of children boarded out with their mothers for the years 1911 to 1924 inclusive :—

WARDS OF STATE AND CHILDREN BOARDED OUT WITH MOTHERS, 1911 TO 1924.

Year.	Number boarded out to Foster Mothers at end of Year.	Number boarded out with Mothers at end of Year.	Total number boarded out at end of Year.	Total Cost of maintenance of boarded out Children.	Other Wards of State.	Total Wards of State and Children† boarded out with Mothers.
				£		
1911 ..	2,958	2,358	5,316	74,719	1,865	7,181
1912 ..	2,991	2,978	5,969	83,327	1,815	7,784
1913 ..	3,090	3,696	6,786	93,509	1,767	8,553
1914 ..	3,342	4,144	7,486	102,051	1,853	9,339
1915 ..	3,359	4,681	8,040	127,898*	2,136	10,176
1916 ..	3,817	4,984	8,801	140,752	1,979	10,780
1917 ..	3,979	5,151	9,130	147,794	2,013	11,143
1918 ..	3,981	5,324	9,305	153,350	2,042	11,347
1919 ..	3,989	6,206†	10,195	161,044*	2,142	12,337
1920 ..	4,128	6,928†	11,056	210,457*	2,098	13,154
1921 ..	4,281	7,534†	11,815	240,555*	1,945	13,760
1922 ..	4,189	7,651†	11,840	264,257	1,979	13,819
1923 ..	4,133	7,641†	11,774	281,344	2,227	14,001
1924 ..	4,123	7,660†	11,783	288,562	2,365	14,148

* Payment for children over the age of two years was increased from 5s. to 6s. per week from 1st April, 1915, and from 6s. to 7s. per week from 1st December, 1919. On 1st November, 1920, payment was increased from 10s. to 11s. 6d. per week for children under the age of 12 months, and from 7s. to 8s. per week for all over that age. From 1st December, 1921, the rate of pay for children under the age of 12 months was increased from 11s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. per week, and for those between 12 and 18 months from 8s. to 12s. 6d. per week.

† Not wards of State.

‡ These children were wards of State prior to 1919.

Cost of
maintenance
of neglected
and reforma-
tory children.

The governmental expenditure for the maintenance of neglected children amounted in 1924 to £310,897, and that for reformatory school children to £3,810; the expenses of administration amounted to £14,030, making a total gross expenditure of £328,737. A sum of £14,802 was received from parents for maintenance, and of £992 from other sources, making the net expenditure £312,943. The number of neglected children under supervision on 31st December, 1924, was 6,363; of this total, 4,123 were maintained in foster homes, 189 were in Government receiving dépôts, 30 were in private industrial schools, 258 were in other institutions, 480 were at service earning their own living, 18 were in hospitals, 2 were in gaol, and 1,263 were with relatives and others at no cost to the State. The number of reformatory wards under supervision on 31st December, 1924, was 125. Of this number 75 were maintained in private schools, 19 were in service earning their own living, 1 was in hospital, and 30 were with relatives at no cost to the State. The expenditure for the maintenance of neglected children has increased greatly during the past ten years, as is shown by the statement which follows:—

NET COST TO THE STATE OF NEGLECTED AND REFORMATORY SCHOOL CHILDREN, 1915 TO 1924.

Year.			Net Expenditure.	Year.			Net Expenditure.
			£				£
1915	..	..	149,324	1920	..	..	238,448
1916	..	..	159,929	1921	..	..	282,380
1917	..	..	167,214	1922	..	..	295,440
1918	..	..	171,474	1923	..	..	299,456
1919	..	..	181,385	1924	..	..	312,943

Neglected
children
maintained
by societies
or private
persons.

Part VIII. of the *Children's Welfare Act* 1915 deals with the committal of neglected children to the care of private persons or institutions approved by the Governor in Council, and also provides for the wardship of the children, and for their transference, if there be sufficient cause, to the control of the Children's Welfare Department. The following return shows the societies and persons registered under the

provisions of this part of the Act, and gives particulars respecting the children under their care during 1924 :—

WORK OF SOCIETIES AND PERSONS REGISTERED UNDER PART VIII. OF THE CHILDREN'S WELFARE ACT.

Name of Society or Person.	Number of Children under Supervision on 31.12.23.	Admissions during 1924.			Number of Children under Supervision on 31.12.24.
		Court Committals.	Transfer of Guardian-ship.	Voluntary Admissions.	
Melbourne Orphan Asylum ..	228	..	..	67	240
Burwood Boys' Home ..	36	3	..	63	43
Church of England Mission ..	129	5	7	41	136
Gordon Institute, Melbourne ..	86	5	2	19	68
Methodist Boys' Training Farm, Burwood East ..	83	7	1	33	87
Methodist Homes for Children ..	289	8	8	20	306
Presbyterian and Scots' Church Children's Aid Society ..	301	2	15	19	296
Presbyterian Rescue Home, Elsternwick ..	37	..	5	1	32
St. Joseph's Home, Surrey Hills	320	..	129	127	318
Try Society, Surrey-road, Hawksburn ..	65	38	..	21	59
Victorian Children's Aid Society ..	135	4	3	35	126
Sutherland Home ..	132	5	5	79	178
Minton Boys' Home, Frankston	72	..	..	16	35
Church of England Boys' Home, Auburn ..	47	..	6	..	48
Kilmany Park Boys' Home*	..	..	..	23	21
Total	2,010	77	181	564	1,993

* Approved under Part VIII. of Children's Welfare Act for first time in 1924.

The number of children who were under the guardianship of the State or maintained in public institutions or by societies on 31st December, 1924, reached the large total of 17,886, viz., 6,514 (6,488 State wards and 26 incapacitated) under the control of the Children's Welfare Department, 7,660 boarded out with mothers, 1,993 under the supervision of societies registered under Part VIII. of the Children's Welfare Act, 295 in Foundling Hospitals, and 1,424 in Orphan Asylums.

Infant Life Protection Act. With the view generally of exercising more efficient supervision over unprotected child life, and of lessening the excessive mortality amongst boarded-out children, the State Legislature passed an act, No. 2102 (which came into force on 31st December, 1907), to amend the Infant Life Protection Act of 1890. These acts are now incorporated in the *Infant Life Protection Act 1915* (No. 2670).

On 31st December, 1924, there were 422 children under supervision in registered homes under the provisions of this Act. The

deaths during the year numbered 29. In addition, 97 children became wards of the Children's Welfare Department by the operation of section 15 of the Act. Thirty-seven cases of adoption of children were notified during the year. Five female inspectors are engaged in the work of inspection.

RELIEF FUNDS.

VICTORIAN MINING ACCIDENT RELIEF FUND.

Victorian Mining Accident Relief Fund. In December, 1882, an inrush of water in the New Australasian Company's mine at Creswick caused the deaths of 22 miners. Consequent on this disaster 79 persons, comprising 18 widows and 61 children, were left in destitute circumstances. Public subscriptions to the amount of £21,602 were raised throughout Victoria for the relief of the widows and orphan children of those who lost their lives, and a fund was established, out of which the widows and children to a certain age were paid weekly allowances. On 31st December, 1924, there remained on the fund five widows, who were receiving 15s. per week each. In addition to the amounts paid to these recipients, grants of surplus moneys are made annually to deserving cases. In 1924, the sum so allotted was £394. The amount at credit of the fund on that date was £17,616, of which £12,000 was the estimated value of freehold premises in Queen-street, Melbourne, £5,607 was in Government inscribed stock and debentures, and £9 was cash in hand.

VICTORIAN COAL MINERS' ACCIDENTS RELIEF FUND.

Victorian Coal Miners' Accidents Relief Fund. A provision of the *Coal Mines Regulation Act* 1909 (No. 2240)—now the *Coal Mines Regulation Act* 1915 (No. 2630)—relates to the constitution of a Fund called the Victorian Coal Miners' Accidents Relief Fund, to which every person employed in a coal mine is compelled to contribute 4½d. per week, the mine-owners paying an amount equal to one-half of that deducted from the miners' wages, and the Government of Victoria a sum equal to the payment by the owners. The Board held its first meeting on 4th April, 1910, and decided that the employers' contributions should commence from 2nd April, 1910. Committees were formed at the collieries (numbering 10 in 1924), their principal functions being to collect contributions and, subject to the approval of the Board, to allot the allowances.

During 1924 the contributions from employees amounted to £1,836, and the allowances paid at the mines totalled £1,057. For the year ended 31st December, 1924, the total revenue was £3,399—remittances from committees at the mines amounting to £809, and interest to £860, and the balance being contributed by the mine-owners (£869) and the Government (£861). The expenditure included £1,178 paid in allowances in addition to the amounts paid at the mines, and £424 cost of administration. The accumulated funds amounted to £20,702

—£8,700 invested in Victorian Government 3½ per cent. inscribed stock, £1,300 in Victorian Government 6 per cent. inscribed stock, £10,250 in Commonwealth inscribed stock, and £452 bank balance. Relief was given in 434 non-fatal cases. In respect to non-fatal accidents, there are 19 persons on the permanently disabled list, the number of children dependent upon such persons being 14. Three fatal accidents occurred during the year. There are 11 widows, 3 mothers, and 25 children receiving aid from the fund as the result of fatalities during 1924 and previous years.

WATSON SUSTENTATION FUND.

The Watson Sustentation Fund.

This fund was inaugurated as the result of an offer made by the late Mr. J. B. Watson to the Bendigo Miners' Association about the year 1889. Information in relation to its establishment is given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 612. Payments to beneficiaries were first made in 1891 at the rate of 5s. per week, and this rate was maintained for about two years, when the sick pay was increased to 7s. 6d. per week. Further changes were afterwards made as necessity arose.

The following are the particulars of members of the Fund relieved, &c., and of receipts and expenditure :—From the inception of the Fund in 1891 to the end of 1924 the total expenditure was £38,540, of which £34,592 represented sick pay and £3,191 donations to members and wives and families of deceased members. During 1924, 49 members were relieved and 7 died, and 42 were on the funds at the end of the year. The receipts for the year were £750. Sick pay for 1924 amounted to £576, donations to members and wives and families of deceased members to £36, and expenses of administration to £33; the total expenditure being £645. The balance in hand at the end of the year 1923 was £634, and at the end of 1924, £739.

QUEEN'S FUND.

Queen's Fund. This fund was instituted in 1887 by Lady Loch to commemorate the Jubilee of the late Queen Victoria. It is for the relief of women in distress, and it is arranged that only the interest on the capital shall be expended yearly. The number of women relieved during 1924-25 was 70, to whom £871 was allotted either by way of grant or loan, and the cost of management was £136. The accumulated fund on 30th June, 1925, was £16,175. In addition to the ordinary receipts of the Fund for the year 1924-25 (£757) an amount of £312 was received from the trustees of the Walter and Elizabeth Hall Trust for distribution to governesses, nurses, and ladies in similar positions who from age, misfortune, or infirmity were unable to earn their living. A sum of £312 was distributed in this manner, £2 was expended on management, and £15 remained in the bank at the date of balancing.

PATRIOTIC FUNDS.**Patriotic
Funds.**

The *Year-Book* for 1918-19 contains, on pages 391 and 392, a statement of the collections in money and the value of the goods contributed in the State of Victoria to the various Patriotic Funds from the outbreak of hostilities to the 31st December, 1918. The total amount for the State, including contributions received after the last-mentioned date, is estimated to have been well over £4,000,000.

IMMIGRATION BUREAU.**Immigration
Bureau.**

The Immigration Bureau, which is a branch of the Lands Department, deals with the subject of assisted immigration to Victoria.

On 1st March, 1921, a joint Commonwealth and State Scheme of Immigration came into operation, and from that date the Government of the Commonwealth assumed responsibility for the booking of passages for nominated and other settlers proceeding to Australia, and took over all administrative work in London, including advertising and the medical inspection of prospective settlers.

Approval of nominations is dealt with by the State authorities, who also indicate the classes and numbers of persons who it is considered may be absorbed in the population without detriment to local artisans and other residents, and for whom it is desired that passages be arranged. To the States is also intrusted the matter of settling on the land or providing employment for new arrivals.

The Government, through this Bureau and in other ways, affords all advice and assistance possible to prospective settlers arriving from overseas, whether desiring to take up land or to obtain employment. In the cases of private purchases of land by new arrivals, valuations on their behalf will, if desired, be made by expert officers free of charge. Nominated passages may be arranged from Great Britain, also under special conditions from Canada and other British Dominions and the United States of America. The Government contributes from £16 10s. upwards towards the fares of approved nominees from Great Britain, special concessions being available in the cases of married couples, widows and widowers with young families.

Nomination forms and all particulars as to rates, &c., may be obtained on application to the Officer-in-Charge, Immigration Bureau, 17 Russell-street, Melbourne, with whom nominations should be lodged. Inquiries in Great Britain should be addressed to the Director, Commonwealth Migration and Settlement Office, Australia House, Strand, London.

INTERCHANGE.

COMMERCE.

Customs and Excise. By the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act (section 51) the power to make laws with respect to trade and commerce with other countries and among the States was conferred on the Federal Parliament, and by the same Act (section 86) the collection and control of duties of Customs and Excise passed to the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on 1st January, 1901. The first Commonwealth Customs Tariff was assented to on 16th September, 1902, and was made retrospective to 8th October, 1901. Since then various amendments have been made. The *Customs Tariff* 1921-24 was amended by the *Customs Tariff Validation Act* 1925, which has been operative as from 3rd September, 1925. There are three scales of duties—British Preferential, Intermediate, and General. The first relates to goods which are the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, but its provisions may be applied wholly or in part to any of the British Dominions. The Intermediate Tariff may be applied to any part of the British Dominions, or to any foreign country.

Recorded Value of Imports and Exports. The recorded value of goods imported represents the amount on which duty is payable or would be payable if the duty were charged *ad valorem*. The value of goods is taken to be the fair market value in the principal markets of the country whence the goods were exported, plus 10 per cent. to cover the cost of insurance, freight, and other charges. When the invoice value of imported goods is shown in any currency other than British currency, the equivalent value in British currency is ascertained according to the commercial rates of exchange. The value of goods exported is taken to represent the value in the principal markets of the State in the ordinary commercial acceptance of the term.

Oversea
Imports and
Exports.

The total values and the values per head of population of imports from and exports to oversea countries for the ten years 1915-16 to 1924-25 are set forth hereunder :—

VALUE OF OVERSEA IMPORTS AND EXPORTS,
1915-16 TO 1924-25.

Year.	Merchandise.	Specie and Bullion.*	Total.	Per Head of Population.
IMPORTS (OVERSEA).				
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1915-16	26,485,281	276,641	26,761,922	18 15 9
1916-17	25,427,527	47,312	25,474,839	18 2 8
1917-18	20,669,696	443,892	21,113,588	14 18 0
1918-19	35,026,311	..	35,026,311	24 7 4
1919-20	33,785,847	2,440	33,788,287	22 9 6
1920-21	57,607,798	979	57,608,777	37 14 0
1921-22	36,343,061	8,995	36,352,056	23 8 10
1922-23	46,724,379	4,721	46,729,100	29 7 8
1923-24	49,506,219	26,424	49,592,643	30 10 3
1924-25†	49,752,334	4,542,371	54,294,705	32 15 4
EXPORTS (OVERSEA).				
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1915-16	14,418,652	330,078	14,748,730	10 7 1
1916-17	19,024,830	5,316	19,030,146	13 10 11
1917-18	18,715,252	2,001,436	20,716,688	14 12 4
1918-19	27,823,980	271,179	28,095,159	19 10 11
1919-20	42,117,153	1,007,787	43,124,940	28 13 9
1920-21	34,868,871	3,090	34,871,961	22 16 5
1921-22	34,633,478	10,704	34,644,182	22 6 10
1922-23	33,766,820	1,881	33,768,701	21 4 8
1923-24	29,611,749	799	29,612,548	18 4 5
1924-25†	41,521,010	159,899	41,680,909	25 3 1

* Includes gold, silver, and bronze specie, and gold and silver bullion.

† The figures for this year are subject to slight revision.

The aggregate trade of the year 1925 (£95,975,614) represents an increase in imports of £4,702,062, and in exports of £12,068,361, as compared with the totals of the preceding year.

Percentage
of Common-
wealth Trade.

Victoria's portion of the value of Commonwealth trade for each of the last ten years is shown in the table which follows:—

Year.	Commonwealth Trade—			Victoria's Portion of Commonwealth Trade—		
	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£	%	%	%
1915-16 ..	77,744,566	74,778,321	152,522,887	34·4	19·7	27·2
1916-17 ..	76,228,679	97,955,482	174,184,161	33·4	19·4	25·6
1917-18 ..	62,334,449	81,429,221	143,763,670	33·9	25·4	29·1
1918-19 ..	102,335,159	113,963,976	216,299,135	34·2	24·7	29·2
1919-20 ..	98,974,292	149,823,509	248,797,801	34·1	28·8	30·9
1920-21 ..	163,801,826	132,158,912	295,960,738	35·2	26·4	31·2
1921-22 ..	103,066,436	127,846,535	230,912,971	35·3	27·1	30·7
1922-23 ..	131,757,835	117,870,147	249,627,982	35·5	28·6	32·2
1923-24 ..	140,618,293	119,487,164	260,105,457	35·3	24·8	30·4
1924-25* ..	157,141,882	162,092,861	319,234,743	34·6	25·7	30·1

* The figures for this year are subject to slight revision.

Principal
Imports.

The principal articles imported from overseas countries into Victoria during each of the last four years are shown below in the order in which they appear in the statistical classification. The number of divisions in this classification has been reduced from 23 to 21 since 1st July, 1922.

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEAS COUNTRIES INTO VICTORIA DURING THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1921-22 TO 1924-25.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS I.—FOODSTUFFS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN, BUT EXCLUDING LIVING ANIMALS.				
Butter	16,020	156,217	63,171	45
Cheese	3,632	11,243	18,729	13,080
Fish—				
Preserved in Tins	290,303	256,514	317,182	332,298
All other	82,076	80,602	91,068	105,143
Meats	90,957	111,529	114,001	134,823
All other Animal Foodstuffs	9,003	9,014	13,538	10,877
Total, Class I. ..	491,996	625,119	617,689	596,266

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1921-22 TO 1924-25—continued.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS II.—FOODSTUFFS OF VEGETABLE ORIGIN; NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND SUBSTANCES USED IN MAKING.				
Caramel, Caramel Paste, Cocoa Butter, &c.	109,101	91,984	77,106	60,894
Cocoa and Chocolate	94,236	129,033	134,886	126,158
Coffee and Chicory	43,863	53,081	52,716	64,115
Confectionery	6,156	17,702	19,150	27,230
Fruits, Dried	36,320	55,157	46,676	39,465
Fruits, Fresh	3,379	2,523	7,054	1,725
Fruits &c., Preserved	7,013	17,509	20,942	29,079
Grain and Pulse—				
Rice	165,037	46,749	110,909	67,938
All other	16,601	75,951	73,473	17,998
Hops	21,671	17,796	6,942	3,533
Mustard	21,106	28,048	45,379	27,308
Nuts, Edible	123,020	126,778	133,008	143,250
Pickles and Sauces	8,853	12,899	12,699	14,296
Sago and Tapioca	30,024	32,431	40,484	29,824
Spices	57,020	59,013	52,632	90,319
Sugar (Cane)	9,008	23,565	42	184
Tea	643,115	903,814	1,197,546	1,298,213
All other Vegetable Foodstuffs	59,748	71,683	102,686	96,987
Total, Class II. ..	1,455,271	1,765,716	2,134,330	2,138,516
CLASS III.—SPIRITUOUS AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.				
Ale, Beer, and Porter, &c. ..	52,859	62,088	70,931	61,397
Spirits (Beverages)—				
Brandy	43,846	42,669	47,332	40,834
Gin	26,521	34,039	36,035	40,163
Whisky	160,390	251,411	246,370	253,434
Other	7,845	12,677	14,070	11,816
Wine (Fermented)—				
Sparkling	7,957	12,843	23,353	29,932
Other	4,458	8,634	11,839	10,940
Total, Class III. ..	303,876	424,361	449,990	448,516
CLASS IV.—TOBACCO AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF.				
Tobacco—				
Manufactured	79,760	17,604	20,309	19,217
Unmanufactured	672,444	613,146	909,543	564,650
Cigars	19,193	28,739	34,008	35,208
Cigarettes	27,435	46,943	59,930	81,405
Snuff	316	285	775	274
Total, Class IV. ..	799,148	706,717	1,024,565	700,754

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1921-22 TO 1924-25—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS V.—LIVE ANIMALS ..	20,213	28,521	98,256	35,947
CLASS VI.—ANIMAL SUBSTANCES (MAINLY UNMANUFACTURED), NOT FOODSTUFFS.				
Gelatine and Glue of all kinds	14,094	21,422	18,254	19,655
Skins—				
Hides (Calf, Cattle, and Horse)	310,214	330,322	347,471	363,093
Other	85,400	78,519	87,975	80,531
Wool	2,454	36,707	288,476	176,584
All other Animal Substances ..	17,923	49,641	48,236	51,760
Total, Class VI. ..	430,085	516,611	790,412	691,623
CLASS VII.—VEGETABLE SUB- STANCES AND FIBRES.				
Bark, Tanning	9,435	21,104	8,520	4,969
Fibres—				
Flax and Hemp	220,106	147,470	184,432	209,760
Kapok	67,436	102,535	91,544	100,290
All other	78,781	109,632	111,472	126,739
Gums and Resins	77,648	105,011	75,827	87,032
Grass or Straw, for hatmaking, furniture, mats, &c. ..	50,124	81,567	72,760	62,037
Pulp for Papermaking ..	39,310	38,140	24,790	55,493
Seeds	59,031	77,676	130,410	233,913
All other Vegetable Substances	18,516	65,527	71,611	82,857
Total, Class VII. ..	620,387	748,662	771,366	963,090
CLASS VIII.—(a) APPAREL; (b) TEXTILES; (c) MANUFACTURED FIBRES.				
(a) <i>Apparel.</i>				
Apparel—				
Blouses, Skirts, Costumes, &c.	61,206	104,235	129,227	204,603
Boots and Shoes	47,552	136,357	154,278	215,225
Corsets	116,086	178,129	80,921	61,085
Furs and other Skins—Dressed	68,624	128,790	205,422	230,309
Gloves	276,588	357,582	274,831	298,978
Hats and Caps	93,925	177,201	180,839	206,039
Hosiery and Knitted Apparel (including Socks and Stock- ings)	598,671	913,258	700,730	769,953
Men's and Boys' Outer Garments	4,694	31,301	58,415	78,864
Shirts, Collars, Ties, &c. ..	33,299	62,783	38,973	43,650
Trimmings	541,629	603,745	479,487	502,730
Other	420,696	467,575	403,550	467,869

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1921-22 TO 1924-25—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS VIII.—(a) APPAREL; (b) TEXTILES; (c) MANUFACTURED FIBRES—<i>continued.</i>				
(b) <i>Textiles.</i>				
Piece Goods—				
Canvas and Duck	295,190	512,699	367,628	340,823
Cotton and Linen	3,538,400	4,705,743	3,845,601	4,048,732
Silk	1,696,906	1,643,684	2,053,096	2,145,793
Woollen	1,355,607	2,033,674	1,554,839	1,380,020
Other	972,949	1,005,686	1,001,465	1,111,705
Floor Coverings—Carpets, Linoleums, Mats, &c.	689,525	1,100,722	1,142,906	1,044,122
Sewing and Embroidery Silks, &c.	386,165	554,057	480,031	478,066
All other Textiles	265,235	509,349	493,894	527,934
(c) <i>Manufactured Fibres.</i>				
Bags and Sacks—				
Bran, Chaff, and Compressed Fodder	124,060	250,818	261,581	100,664
Corn and Flour	715,129	583,118	569,403	1,043,274
All other	74,341	120,084	93,969	227,294
Cordage and Twines (excluding Metal Cordage)	41,594	58,378	83,202	54,546
Yarns—				
Cotton	162,231	193,643	273,347	316,882
Wool	583,121	1,002,516	458,946	573,861
Other	78,006	153,299	111,106	233,863
Total, Class VIII.	13,246,429	17,588,426	15,497,687	16,706,884
CLASS IX.—OILS, FATS, AND WAXES.				
Oils (in bulk)—				
Kerosene	195,544	223,840	233,881	225,079
Lubricating (Mineral)	160,488	216,670	238,375	273,384
Petroleum Spirit	1,027,802	1,076,118	1,461,014	1,708,898
All other Oils, Fats, and Waxes	261,418	386,171	524,734	458,595
Total, Class IX.	1,645,252	1,902,799	2,458,004	2,665,956
CLASS X.—PAINTS AND VARNISHES	150,382	227,489	239,872	230,283
CLASS XI.—STONES AND MINERALS, INCLUDING ORES AND CONCENTRATES	38,180	121,863	197,689	145,770

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1921-22 TO 1924-25—continued.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS XII.—METALS, METAL MANUFACTURES, AND MACHINERY.				
<i>(a) Machines and Machinery.</i>				
Electrical Machinery and Appliances—				
Cable and Wire, Covered..	344,501	436,983	364,683	391,088
N.E.I.	1,403,718	1,574,304	1,242,884	1,425,943
Implements and Machinery (Agricultural, Horticultural, and Viticultural)	170,574	179,182	235,994	265,405
All other Machines and Machinery	1,783,789	2,066,932	2,305,107	1,988,700
<i>(b) Metals and Metal Manufactures, other than Machinery.</i>				
Alloys	33,154	98,409	118,132	110,128
Gas Appliances	14,462	16,308	24,659	24,927
Iron and Steel—				
Bar, Rod, Hoop, Ingots, Blooms, &c.	389,858	538,936	393,543	440,065
Girders, Beams, Channels, Joists, &c.	84,625	107,333	111,585	140,989
Pig and Scrap	49,853	106,892	70,389	89,318
Pipes and Tubes	192,276	371,931	401,886	338,372
Plate and Sheet	855,287	1,473,913	1,665,443	1,646,431
Railway and Tramway Material	10,691	138,278	87,787	15,479
Wire	222,280	390,535	298,057	325,305
Tools of Trade (not being Machines)	214,867	273,133	391,235	341,000
Vehicles—				
Motor Cycles, Tricycles, &c.	47,254	118,091	243,875	249,411
Bodies for Motor Cars, &c.	26,870	143,912	366,996	423,225
Chassis for Motor Cars, &c.	986,403	2,012,257	3,172,567	3,185,302
Other, and Parts.. ..	300,685	471,381	684,870	597,382
All other Metals and Metal Manufactures other than Machinery	1,602,401	1,937,680	2,188,562	1,861,433
Total, Class XII. ..	8,733,553	12,456,390	14,368,254	13,859,903

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1921-22 TO 1924-25—continued.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS XIII. — RUBBER AND LEATHER AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF AND SUBSTITUTES THEREFOR.				
(a) <i>Rubber and Rubber Manufactures.</i>				
Rubber, Crude, Powdered or Reclaimed	130,931	127,365	275,307	437,033
Rubber Manufactures ..	298,772	509,851	700,607	610,131
(b) <i>Leather and Manufactures of Leather and Substitutes therefor.</i>				
Patent and Enamelled	53,217	129,498	87,605	79,397
All other	164,836	186,487	117,424	106,375
Total, Class XIII. ..	647,756	953,201	1,180,943	1,232,936
CLASS XIV.—WOOD AND WICKER, RAW AND MANUFACTURED.				
Timber—				
Dressed	278,046	890,897	917,646	707,636
Undressed	590,227	1,056,153	1,511,625	1,013,969
Wood and Wicker Manufactures, including Furniture ..	132,040	184,638	229,252	220,174
Total, Class XIV. ..	1,000,313	2,131,688	2,658,523	1,941,779
CLASS XV. — EARTHENWARE, CEMENTS, CHINA, GLASS, AND STONWARE.				
Cement (Portland)	62,669	42,770	11,533	24,075
Earthenware, China, &c. ..	252,048	224,714	275,206	276,156
Glass and Glassware	256,698	365,208	384,640	388,302
All other Earthenware, Cements, China, Glass, and Stoneware.	35,689	69,780	97,422	83,981
Total, Class XV. ..	607,104	702,472	768,801	772,514

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1921-22 TO 1924-25—continued.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
CLASS XVI.—PAPER AND STATIONERY.	£	£	£	£
(a) <i>Paper—</i>				
Cardboard and other Paper				
Boards	57,349	71,883	72,068	77,261
Printing	763,703	794,612	916,165	1,021,762
Wrapping of all Colours ..	101,563	144,934	137,804	112,125
Writing and Typewriting ..	131,196	270,497	176,875	215,632
All other	246,209	176,648	215,513	197,954
(b) <i>Stationery and Paper Manufactures—</i>				
Books (Printed), Directories, &c.	297,465	337,080	342,391	358,476
All other.. ..	195,881	384,870	435,334	373,368
Total, Class XVI. ..	1,793,366	2,180,524	2,296,150	2,356,578
CLASS XVII.—JEWELLERY, TIME-PIECES, AND FANCY GOODS.				
Fancy Goods	261,855	437,431	407,027	441,115
Jewellery, including Cameos, &c	176,001	274,294	274,354	263,389
Watches, Clocks, Chronometers, &c.	110,590	138,473	225,507	201,101
Total, Class XVII.	548,446	850,198	906,888	905,605
CLASS XVIII.—OPTICAL, SURGICAL, AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS.				
Surgical and Dental Instruments, &c.	75,121	101,449	99,998	105,487
Talking Machines—Phonographs, &c.	24,423	48,106	95,239	153,715
All other Optical and Scientific Instruments	83,775	124,312	141,501	157,961
Total, Class XVIII. ..	183,319	273,867	336,738	417,163
CLASS XIX.—DRUGS, CHEMICALS, AND FERTILIZERS.				
Cream of Tartar	78,742	84,219	55,809	68,460
Dyes	144,771	132,923	110,493	102,053
Fertilizers	214,986	288,600	339,852	349,538
Oils, Essential (Non-spirituous) ..	25,957	31,597	28,604	39,345

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1921-22 TO 1924-25—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
CLASS XIX.—DRUGS, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS—<i>continued.</i>	£	£	£	£
Perfumery and Toilet Preparations	78,375	78,975	78,785	87,410
Proprietary Medicines	29,448	37,922	59,613	60,828
Sodium Salts	122,327	179,646	130,224	151,438
Sulphur (Brimstone)	60,643	74,325	116,806	106,983
All other Drugs and Chemicals ..	480,879	465,978	469,011	504,364
Total, Class XIX.	1,236,128	1,374,185	1,389,197	1,470,419
CLASS XX.—MISCELLANEOUS.				
Arms, ammunition, and explosives	146,471	270,285	239,443	260,161
Brushware	58,975	99,574	113,296	100,394
Matches and Vestas	22,339	71,024	82,138	74,781
Musical Instruments, &c.—				
Pianos and Parts	70,509	168,159	389,324	397,888
Other and Parts	71,631	62,582	76,230	60,713
Soap	14,656	24,513	20,617	25,607
All other Articles	2,007,276	449,433	459,817	543,288
Total, Class XX.	2,391,857	1,145,570	1,380,865	1,471,832
CLASS XXI.—GOLD AND SILVER; AND BRONZE SPECIE.				
Gold	312	393	4,999	4,532,991
Silver	8,660	3,442	21,397	9,329
Bronze—Specie	23	886	28	51
Total, Class XXI.	8,995	4,721	26,424	4,542,371
Grand Total	36,352,056	46,729,100	49,592,643	54,294,765

The articles imported were mainly manufactured goods. Apparel, textiles, manufactured fibres, machinery, and manufactures of metal amounted to 60 per cent. of the total value of imports in the last five years. Excluding gold and bullion, &c., the imports for 1925 showed an increase of £186,115 as compared with the previous year. The items showing the largest increases were as follows:—Bags and Sacks, £446,279; apparel, £372,632; yarns, £281,207; oils in bulk, £274,091; and vegetable substances and fibres, £191,724. The chief decreases were in the following:—Timber, £707,666; metals and metal manufactures, £430,819; and tobacco, &c., £323,811.

Principal
Exports.

The principal articles exported to oversea countries from Victoria during each of the last four years are shown hereunder in 21 divisions, in accordance with the statistical classification :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES FROM VICTORIA DURING THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1921-22 TO 1924-25.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS I.—FOODSTUFFS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN, BUT EXCLUDING LIVING ANIMALS.				
Butter	3,026,447	3,190,805	2,751,312	4,051,632
Cheese	39,900	22,955	31,071	65,130
Meats—				
Bacon and Hams	36,068	23,491	22,352	17,055
Preserved by Cold Process—				
Beef	33,046	41,890	22,944	61,829
Lamb	751,077	1,493,156	656,438	955,276
Mutton	306,199	880,472	13,757	95,022
Rabbits and Hares ..	35,385	10,176	8,477	5,196
Preserved in Tins	16,331	48,750	9,409	33,011
Other	129,042	125,022	28,267	58,581
Milk and Cream	1,530,172	1,198,708	1,040,183	1,620,068
All other Animal Foodstuffs ..	19,963	6,315	3,323	6,389
Total, Class I.	5,923,630	7,041,740	4,587,533	6,969,189
CLASS II.—FOODSTUFFS OF VEGETABLE ORIGIN; NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND SUBSTANCES USED IN MAKING.				
Biscuits	62,243	52,036	59,413	61,807
Fruits, Dried	564,065	810,103	826,028	1,327,784
Fruits, Fresh	164,452	182,414	131,323	256,367
Fruits and Vegetables—Preserved	602,623	80,988	254,469	267,498
Grain and Pulse—				
Unprepared—				
Wheat	9,182,731	2,498,066	3,922,823	10,413,976
Other	198,956	93,607	84,127	93,014
Prepared—				
Flour (Wheaten)	2,157,754	2,024,921	2,175,854	2,408,542
Other	38,479	32,144	43,245	75,389
Jams and Fruit Jellies	72,531	26,968	24,467	16,840
Tea	37,223	58,365	47,328	53,931
All other Vegetable Foodstuffs ..	355,234	95,490	198,863	176,022
Total, Class II.	13,436,291	5,955,102	7,767,940	15,151,120

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES
FROM VICTORIA, 1921-22 TO 1924-25—continued.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
CLASS III.—SPIRITUOUS AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.. ..	£ 48,039	£ 39,726	£ 48,862	£ 55,119
CLASS IV.—TOBACCO AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF.. ..	346,697	528,616	286,581	286,122
CLASS V.—LIVE ANIMALS ..	20,316	38,351	22,244	61,421
CLASS VI.—ANIMAL SUBSTANCES (MAINLY UNMANUFACTURED), NOT FOODSTUFFS.				
Skins—				
Hides (Calf, Cattle, Horse) ..	31,530	46,781	78,915	164,890
Rabbit and Hare	201,921	237,853	282,266	349,956
Sheep	517,934	1,241,533	1,214,069	1,523,606
Other	16,625	36,405	129,607	119,789
Wool—				
Greasy	9,640,670	12,231,285	11,578,094	12,858,063
Scoured and Washed	1,154,290	3,469,056	1,255,769	1,459,918
Tops	390,866	415,630	233,838	128,397
All other Animal Substances ..	14,624	19,253	20,786	20,864
Total, Class VI. ..	11,968,460	17,697,796	14,793,344	16,625,483
CLASS VII.—VEGETABLE SUBSTANCES AND FIBRES ..	32,269	47,511	45,079	48,652
CLASS VIII.—(a) APPAREL; (b) TEXTILES; AND (c) MANUFACTURED FIBRES.				
Boots and Shoes	67,781	6,656	3,662	2,455
All other Apparel	250,921	75,257	36,053	38,505
All other Textiles, including Bags, Cordage, Yarns, &c. ..	220,956	173,285	91,042	109,052
Total, Class VIII. ..	539,658	255,198	130,757	150,012
CLASS IX.—OILS, FATS, AND WAXES.				
Tallow—Unrefined	336,869	451,405	188,767	441,986
All other Oils, Fats, and Waxes ..	110,862	40,264	78,237	152,711
Total, Class IX. ..	447,731	491,669	267,004	594,697

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES
FROM VICTORIA, 1921-22 TO 1924-25—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
CLASS X.—PAINTS AND VARNISHES	£ 6,763	£ 6,550	£ 4,999	£ 6,784
CLASS XI.—STONES AND MINERALS, INCLUDING ORES AND CONCENTRATES	67,616	77,300	24,374	50,293
CLASS XII.—METALS, METAL MANUFACTURES, AND MACHINERY.				
(a) <i>Machines and Machinery—</i> Machines and Machinery ..	276,719	148,574	239,580	237,846
(b) <i>Metal and Metal Manufactures other than Machinery—</i>				
Iron and Steel	14,588	16,613	9,624	6,526
Lead—Pig and in Matte ..	380	1,295	450	2,292
Tin Ingots	121,651	137,531	68,944	19,722
Zinc—Bars, Blocks, &c. ..	400	50,689	51,965	296
All other Metals and Manufactures thereof	168,601	95,970	122,644	157,558
Total, Class XII. ..	582,339	450,672	493,207	424,240
CLASS XIII.—RUBBER AND LEATHER, AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF, AND SUBSTITUTES THEREFOR.				
Indiarubber and Manufactures ..	156,427	120,673	123,476	93,132
Leather and Manufactures ..	320,701	305,744	295,350	253,232
Total, Class XIII. ..	477,128	426,417	418,826	346,364
CLASS XIV.—WOOD AND WICKER, RAW AND MANUFACTURED ..	37,816	29,867	19,236	30,180
CLASS XV. — EARTHENWARE, CEMENTS, CHINA, GLASS, AND STONEWARE	24,168	14,356	14,705	15,536
CLASS XVI.—PAPER AND STATIONERY.				
Paper	13,154	11,389	20,224	27,690
Stationery	77,613	67,368	113,450	58,649
Total, Class XVI. ..	90,767	78,757	133,674	86,339

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES
FROM VICTORIA, 1921-22 TO 1924-25—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
CLASS XVII.—JEWELLERY, TIME-PIECES, AND FANCY GOODS.				
Precious Stones, Unset; Pearls, Cameos, &c. ..	£ 10,600	£ 6,029	£ 4,401	£ 11,312
All other Jewellery, Timepieces, and Fancy Goods ..	34,088	17,161	15,298	17,396
Total, Class XVII. ..	44,688	23,190	19,699	28,708
CLASS XVIII.—OPTICAL, SURGICAL, AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS..	38,591	36,218	49,987	56,031
CLASS XIX.—DRUGS, CHEMICALS, AND FERTILIZERS.				
Fertilizers—				
Ammonium Sulphate ..	35,373	28,395	4,971	10,088
Other	6,976	9,434	6,160	6,105
Oil—Eucalyptus	19,348	26,083	53,836	62,252
All other Drugs and Chemicals ..	113,563	155,722	108,228	130,248
Total, Class XIX. ..	175,260	219,634	173,195	208,693
CLASS XX.—MISCELLANEOUS.				
Soap	181,623	208,957	189,866	221,165
All other Articles	143,628	99,193	120,637	104,862
Total, Class XX. ..	325,251	308,150	310,503	326,027
CLASS XXI.—GOLD AND SILVER; AND BRONZE SPECIE.				
Gold	7,882	805	299	159,899
Silver	2,822	1,076	500	..
Total, Class XXI. ..	10,704	1,881	799	159,899
Australian produce	33,681,068	33,148,563	29,088,613	41,105,425
Other produce	963,114	620,138	523,935	575,484
Grand Total	34,644,182	33,768,701	29,612,548	41,680,909

The export trade consists largely of agricultural and pastoral products. The value of wool, wheat, flour, and butter exported during the last five years amounted to about 73 per cent. of the total exports for that period. There was an increase of £12,068,361 in the exports of 1925, as compared with the previous year. There were increases in practically every important article, the chief of which were:—Wheat, £6,491,153; wool, £1,378,677; butter, £1,300,320; fruits (all kinds), £619,977; milk and cream, £579,885; meats, £464,326; and hides and skins, £453,384.

Imports from
and exports to
principal
countries.

The value of Victorian trade with various overseas countries and the surplus of imports or exports in each case, during the year ended 30th June, 1925, are given below. In the tables which follow the imports have been assigned to the country of origin owing to the Customs Department having discontinued recording the country of shipment.

IMPORTS FROM AND EXPORTS TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES, 1924-25.

Country.	Value of Imports into Victoria of the Produce of the Country mentioned.	Value of Exports from Victoria to the Country mentioned.	Excess of Imports (-) Exports (+).
BRITISH.			
	£	£	£
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ..	23,867,785	18,827,293	- 5,040,492
Canada	1,022,495	63,395	- 959,100
Ceylon	509,096	171,579	- 337,517
Hong Kong	342	226,538	+ 226,196
India	2,072,224	456,530	- 1,615,694
Irish Free State	8,523	..	- 8,523
Malaya (British)	379,780	819,192	+ 439,412
Mauritius .. .. .	..	91,746	+ 91,746
New Zealand	1,056,345	1,590,047	+ 533,702
Pacific Islands	298,201	73,401	- 224,800
South African Union	4,584,675	1,004,077	- 3,580,598
West Indies	56,399	697	- 55,702
Other British Possessions	89,109	36,940	- 52,169
FOREIGN.			
Africa, Portuguese East .. .. .	..	45,651	+ 45,651
Belgium	348,799	970,762	+ 621,963
Brazil	57,020	..	- 57,020
Chile	57,573	..	- 57,573
China	265,830	144,979	- 120,851
Czecho-Slovakia	143,735	..	- 143,735
Egypt	6,191	944,210	+ 938,019
Finland	36,442	78,577	+ 42,135
France	1,886,495	5,205,757	+ 3,319,262
Germany	990,334	1,043,907	+ 104,573
Italy	685,959	2,575,374	+ 1,889,415
Japan	1,310,104	1,825,784	+ 515,680
Netherlands	257,474	340,258	+ 82,784
Netherlands East Indies	1,774,793	1,348,030	- 426,763
Norway	696,126	17,015	- 679,111
Persia	123,856	..	- 123,856
Peru	249	80,443	+ 80,194
Philippine Islands	77,760	35,649	- 42,111
Spain	54,263	97,019	+ 42,756
Sweden	520,080	67,885	- 452,195
Switzerland	1,009,653	517	- 1,009,136
Turkey	8,849	87,567	+ 78,718
United States of America	9,806,908	3,208,812	- 6,598,096
West Indies	45,036	1,006	- 44,030
Other Foreign Countries	237,202	290,272	- 36,930
Total	54,294,705	41,680,909	- 12,613,796

The value of the trade with the leading countries of the world in each of the last five years was as specified hereunder :—

**IMPORTS (CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN)
FROM PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES, AND EXPORTS DIRECT
THERETO, 1920-21 to 1924-25.**

Country.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	Imports of Products or Manufactures of—				
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom* ..	27,118,215	18,835,097	21,657,303	22,923,002	23,867,765
Canada ..	1,642,315	1,219,609	1,741,814	1,543,897	1,022,495
India and Ceylon ..	3,105,404	1,782,350	1,814,912	2,008,835	2,581,320
Malaya (British) ..	155,112	412,976	121,171	240,870	379,780
New Zealand ..	961,338	837,731	1,005,703	1,202,647	1,056,345
South African Union ..	143,286	161,169	213,987	193,010	4,584,675
Other British Possessions ..	636,843	399,534	411,771	481,717	452,574
Belgium ..	688,201	393,146	324,480	331,223	348,799
China ..	397,836	320,121	313,178	293,412	265,830
Egypt ..	12,140	12,188	10,231	9,746	6,191
France ..	1,545,833	1,140,223	1,396,191	1,860,115	1,886,495
Germany ..	46,107	66,296	295,126	582,664	939,334
Italy ..	354,277	423,742	516,158	543,580	685,959
Japan ..	1,737,111	1,061,238	1,203,346	1,145,473	1,310,104
Netherlands ..	261,774	205,662	220,132	209,478	257,474
Netherlands East Indies ..	3,544,622	927,041	1,427,037	1,577,394	1,774,793
Norway ..	1,144,328	386,566	850,693	682,207	696,126
Philippine Islands ..	97,756	72,696	66,796	75,631	77,720
Sweden ..	868,232	372,347	625,236	799,805	520,080
Switzerland ..	890,516	808,288	946,282	1,029,793	1,009,653
United States of America ..	11,552,483	6,135,555	8,006,961	11,220,595	9,806,908
Other Foreign Countries ..	705,488	378,481	557,481	637,574	764,225
Total ..	57,608,777	36,352,056	46,729,100	49,592,643	54,294,705
	Exports to—				
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom* ..	17,825,150	16,308,839	19,163,057	12,852,761	18,827,293
Canada ..	27,721	93,341	94,266	74,558	63,395
India and Ceylon ..	408,222	1,535,548	253,172	312,334	628,109
Malaya (British) ..	453,949	842,251	627,207	817,368	819,192
New Zealand ..	2,610,367	1,673,784	1,497,238	1,403,618	1,590,047
South African Union ..	1,285,913	680,118	647,742	621,908	1,004,077
Other British Possessions ..	443,921	327,372	343,231	429,673	429,322
Belgium ..	1,319,434	590,352	353,102	692,233	970,762
China ..	85,254	125,984	48,643	362,187	144,979
Egypt ..	2,300,653	1,361,936	514,029	760,376	944,210
France ..	1,446,353	1,965,004	2,374,421	2,801,079	5,205,757
Germany ..	591,926	399,635	295,279	652,787	1,043,907
Italy ..	637,647	1,673,832	1,221,882	1,357,588	2,575,374
Japan ..	628,648	2,499,434	2,153,961	2,821,192	1,825,784
Netherlands ..	549,228	91,150	11,863	248,018	340,258
Netherlands East Indies ..	975,885	1,117,009	1,127,039	914,303	1,343,030
Norway ..	136,428	295,634	42,773	31,321	17,015
Philippine Islands ..	65,323	96,413	80,239	53,146	35,649
Sweden ..	37,759	8,351	49,836	72,936	67,885
Switzerland ..	7,587	4,815	1,691	3,348	517
United States of America ..	1,981,499	2,342,628	2,678,354	2,086,626	3,208,812
Other Foreign Countries ..	553,089	610,642	181,536	240,183	590,535
Total ..	34,371,961	34,644,182	33,763,701	29,612,548	41,680,909

*Great Britain and Northern Ireland for 1924-25.

Trade with
United
Kingdom.

Forty-five per cent. of the total value of the exports in 1925 were sent to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, whilst 44 per cent. of the imports were their products or manufactures. The chief articles of United Kingdom origin imported in the last five years, and the principal articles exported direct thereto in the same period were as follows :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.*
<i>Imported into Victoria (of United Kingdom origin).</i>					
Whisky	£ 210,840	£ 159,782	£ 251,372	£ 245,891	£ 253,091
Apparel and Attire	1,041,681	710,294	1,179,643	895,478	1,100,614
Trimmings and Ornaments	145,638	121,822	151,093	144,185	136,359
Piece Goods—					
Cotton and Linen	4,932,213	2,528,758	4,261,605	3,451,274	3,627,899
Woolen	2,412,813	1,316,445	1,983,388	1,423,628	1,251,429
Silk	200,228	267,785	213,897	237,915	305,073
Canvas and Duck	885,135	256,418	425,078	328,021	323,881
Velvets, and Lace for Attire	331,915	232,130	209,025	250,168	256,746
Other	600,829	309,445	383,200	335,273	355,205
Floor Coverings	743,528	656,745	1,042,462	1,078,911	1,000,075
Sewing and Embroidery Silks, &c.	508,895	334,250	479,620	407,719	408,052
Yarns	1,234,114	796,881	1,300,772	788,226	1,049,626
Machines and Machinery	2,490,293	1,984,705	2,436,253	2,104,259	2,192,286
Metals and Metal Manufactures—					
Iron and Steel	3,300,413	1,366,898	2,703,326	2,723,455	2,748,131
Vehicles and Parts	672,360	374,056	538,581	833,172	1,065,681
Other	1,770,791	1,202,051	1,683,200	1,773,682	1,534,781
Rubber and Rubber Goods	196,856	121,266	187,205	160,164	206,834
Paper	822,188	428,767	690,860	1,001,360	1,195,431
Books	294,215	260,678	301,330	308,337	321,068
Dyes	224,087	118,514	109,490	99,404	92,909
Vessels (Ships)	207,000	1,516,000	24,136	340	2,416
All other Articles	3,872,183	3,771,407	4,101,767	4,266,140	4,440,198
Total	27,118,215	18,835,097	24,657,303	22,923,002	23,867,785
<i>Exported from Victoria to United Kingdom.</i>					
Butter	3,547,396	2,439,098	2,586,722	2,055,754	3,442,588
Meats—					
Beef, Mutton and Lamb	798,043	1,088,846	2,403,593	679,607	1,075,596
Rabbits and Hares	130,999	35,210	9,689	8,049	4,526
Preserved in tins	40,364	11,603	26,934	2,979	17,767
Milk and Cream	209,577	420,229	50,025	8,870	111,067
Fruits—all kinds	433,516	1,146,743	882,536	1,038,037	1,588,458
Wheat and Flour	4,582,943	3,692,630	1,172,682	1,725,689	4,536,944
Jams and Jellies	74,246	43,863	13	358	408
Hides and Skins	602,481	443,224	738,385	1,031,611	1,124,305
Wool	6,064,096	6,078,549	10,087,573	5,297,501	5,973,351
Tallow, unrefined	151,263	130,010	227,968	35,300	131,926
Tin Ingots	216,426	118,621	135,688	63,286	17,565
Leather, &c.	183,591	113,063	140,480	113,422	90,140
All other Articles	790,209	547,210	700,769	792,298	712,052
Total	17,825,150	16,308,899	19,163,057	12,852,761	18,827,293

* The figures for 1924-25 relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Trade with
India and
Ceylon.

The value of the trade with India and Ceylon was £3,209,429 in 1925, and was greater than in the previous year by £888,260. There was an increase in imports of £572,485, and in exports of £315,775. The principal articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH INDIA AND CEYLON, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Indian and Cingalese origin).</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
Cocoa Beans	26,133	8,993	8,228	11,608	14,323
Coffee	17,679	19,942	22,466	15,953	21,672
Rice	55,833	129,853	34,714	97,672	55,451
Nuts	14,659	42,637	27,816	88,427	38,337
Tea	352,755	355,716	384,958	522,342	479,091
Hides and Skins	23,807	49,786	35,680	17,958	14,046
Fibres	20,750	25,135	32,475	38,590	45,246
Gums and Resins	27,125	28,873	43,163	21,123	30,701
Seeds	16,438	9,147	2,802	25,193	170,261
Hessians	121,821	98,325	146,736	139,461	223,460
Floor Coverings	12,527	8,631	23,382	14,102	10,548
Bags and Sacks	2,218,121	911,099	952,611	924,498	1,367,333
Oils in Bulk	7,963	4,394	6,386	6,978	8,352
Waxes	35,371	5,896	2,769	1,816	3,647
Rubber, &c.	30,716	2,216	2,524	12,854	40,560
All other Articles	114,706	81,677	88,202	120,260	107,183
Total	3,105,404	1,782,350	1,814,912	2,008,835	2,581,320
<i>Exported from Victoria to India and Ceylon.</i>					
Butter	24,254	7,107	15,215	17,562	10,842
Meats	12,275	8,137	20,492	5,289	14,702
Milk and Cream	8,685	67,690	45,727	26,488	159,016
Biscuits	7,964	4,594	4,914	4,475	6,872
Hay and Chaff	6,946	4,175	4,248	2,472	10,326
Fruits (preserved in liquid)	18,371	8,425	9,107	1,452	2,637
Wheat, Flour, and Oatmeal	12,633	1,282,040	52,800	81,952	121,769
Jams and Jellies	79,156	7,180	3,755	3,656	2,828
Horses	28,569	7,430	19,739	5,606	12,090
Wool	38,737	42,559	11,485	111,817	103,884
Tallow	58,157	23,191	25,966	14,272	33,377
Leather, &c.	9,600	8,610	2,758	2,469	3,228
Soap	4,203	2,740	5,234	5,477	4,649
Specie and Bullion			453		108,639
All other Articles	106,672	66,670	31,279	30,397	34,006
Total	408,222	1,535,548	253,172	312,334	628,109

The value of the trade with New Zealand for the year ended 30th June, 1925, was £2,646,392. The exports thereto amounted to £1,590,047, and represented 3·8 per cent. of the total overseas exports. The principal articles of trade during the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF CHIEF IMPORTS OF NEW ZEALAND ORIGIN
AND OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED DIRECT TO
THAT COUNTRY, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Imported into Victoria (of New Zealand origin).</i>					
Butter	7	16,020	153,184	61,807	9
Fish	27,598	38,940	33,809	33,894	39,360
Milk and Cream	2,377	..	1,782	..	2,551
Meats	6,669	5,961	7,081	24,727	16,437
Hops	1,808	7,430	10,316	4,927	1,510
Animals (horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs)	8,454	7,447	11,006	45,882	7,722
Hides and Skins	290,336	262,158	319,660	351,750	328,150
Wool .. .. .	..	2,454	36,700	284,099	142,317
Flax and Hemp	182,155	108,843	47,459	70,380	78,595
Oakum and Tow	21,301	18,736	22,820	15,523	36,214
Seeds	44,094	29,380	31,558	35,161	63,246
Timber	320,108	278,737	251,715	180,865	262,561
All other Articles	56,431	63,625	78,618	90,632	77,673
Total	961,338	837,731	1,005,708	1,202,647	1,056,345
<i>Exported from Victoria to New Zealand.</i>					
Milk and Cream	16,509	2,118	907	694	1,254
Fruits, all kinds	88,367	142,687	130,071	119,499	189,486
Grain and Pulse—					
Wheat	165,370	2	..	142,611	108,379
Barley	26,146	..	920	4,091	4,854
Oats	10,878	3,142	1,995	32,592	26,429
Rice and Rice Meal	9,784	19,147	9,213	17,826	17,645
Tea	6,225	36,681	57,111	45,869	51,069
Spirituous and Alcoholic Liquores	23,968	15,752	17,760	14,667	18,980
Tobacco manufactured	265,452	344,850	525,914	281,799	284,727
Apparel	411,376	254,407	47,008	19,611	13,734
Piece Goods	87,614	91,943	97,971	30,771	34,508
Oils	27,755	24,789	11,839	49,707	114,650
Machines and Machinery	69,518	45,721	41,912	42,643	76,008
Metal manufactures	94,567	43,196	57,723	62,179	62,873
Rubber manufactures	464,669	133,614	101,007	121,550	92,150
Leather, &c.	60,195	54,139	40,392	37,840	30,046
Books	38,597	33,137	22,765	23,213	21,070
Drugs and Chemicals	70,057	65,882	69,856	45,067	40,935
Fertilizers	34,828	5,037	8,029	172	355
All other Articles	632,492	357,540	254,815	314,217	400,835
Australian produce	2,184,023	1,130,190	1,142,893	1,120,998	1,230,452
Other produce	426,344	543,594	354,345	285,620	359,595
Total	2,610,367	1,673,784	1,497,238	1,406,618	1,590,047

The trade with Belgium was suspended in 1918 and 1919, and has not yet recovered its pre-war proportion, which was 3 per cent. of the total oversea trade of Victoria. In the year 1924-25 the proportion was 1·4 per cent. The principal articles of trade with Belgium in the last five years were as follows :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH
BELGIUM, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Belgian origin).</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Piece Goods	56,750	23,281	24,275	25,552	30,991
Copper	1,843	8,556	6,554	6,110	3,377
Iron and Steel	119,441	153,961	3,817	13,735	18,707
Vehicles	8,544	9,695	14,462	38,274	29,875
Glass and Glassware	302,820	64,030	115,840	125,575	126,015
Paper	54,791	29,735	33,153	33,969	34,627
Cameos and Precious Stones	63,788	21,136	41,133	17,044	15,036
All other Articles	80,224	82,752	85,246	70,964	90,171
Total	688,201	393,146	324,480	331,223	348,799
<i>Exported from Victoria to Belgium.</i>					
Milk and Cream	395,336	..	..	..	270
Wheat	948,175	81,905	..	22,177	434,464
Hides and Skins	4,034	42,673	53,683	102,276	45,309
Wool	333,684	316,178	248,366	501,125	417,542
Ores	22,094	11,674	140	525	2,585
Tallow	5,125	10,657	13,536	4,990	19,755
Leather, &c.	164	6,848	5,330	..	155
Cameos and Precious Stones	8,458	114	463	957	2,198
All other Articles	102,364	120,303	31,584	60,183	48,484
Total	1,819,434	590,352	358,102	692,233	970,762

Trade with
Netherlands
East Indies.

The Netherlands East Indies accounted for 3·3 per cent. of Victoria's oversea trade in 1925. The chief articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Netherlands East Indies origin).</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
Coffee and Chicory	10,326	13,073	16,500	21,083	23,615
Sago and Tapioca	11,404	11,856	3,878	18,057	6,751
Spices	10,058	7,025	5,692	8,665	9,292
Sugar	2,163,733	8,969	23,391	22	..
Tea	118,894	263,771	487,542	608,300	777,466
Tobacco—unmanufactured	71,172	36,454	50,395	50,330	13,851
Hides and Skins	16,837	5,892	3,959	1,037	2,191
Fibres	60,208	96,481	144,426	126,270	130,368
Seeds	9,039	3,276	16,569	8,038	19,900
Oils	914,545	427,692	614,414	678,669	718,147
Rubber, crude	104,751	20,159	21,403	18,178	33,920
All other Articles	53,655	32,393	38,918	38,715	39,292
Total	3,544,622	927,041	1,427,087	1,577,364	1,774,793
<i>Exported from Victoria to the Netherlands East Indies.</i>					
Butter	335,361	411,388	459,033	413,620	413,730
Meats	30,653	19,348	16,185	18,803	14,131
Milk and Cream	68,795	155,206	137,666	90,624	448,123
Biscuits	43,621	27,180	26,626	29,806	40,419
Fruits, all kinds	10,438	9,214	25,234	25,114	22,155
Grain and Pulse	211,266	335,468	343,103	248,496	308,051
Machines and Machinery	10,716	8,551	2,004	15,561	2,293
Leather, &c.	60,843	50,977	46,139	48,631	48,151
Ammonium Sulphate	49,416	7,178	..	..	9,733
All other Articles	154,776	92,509	71,109	23,653	41,234
Total	975,885	1,117,009	1,127,099	914,308	1,348,030

Trade with
France.

In 1925 the value of the trade with France was £7,092,252, or 7·4 per cent. of the oversea total. Details of the exports to France and of the goods of French origin received in the past five years are given in the appended table:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH
FRANCE, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Imported into Victoria (of French origin.)</i>					
Brandy	79,007	41,515	42,237	47,169	40,038
Wine	44,369	9,671	15,375	27,753	33,593
Apparel—					
Trimmings and Ornaments ..	197,187	136,059	194,191	163,993	139,077
Gloves	18,520	25,554	23,152	27,525	28,571
Other	71,490	79,448	99,299	150,677	231,896
Piece Goods	576,397	462,112	466,907	781,405	722,235
Oils	33,028	6,933	9,739	14,181	11,529
Motor Cars and Parts	64,936	92,529	130,903	186,912	162,254
Rubber Manufactures	46,149	41,118	56,814	57,114	61,980
Pipes (smoking)	41,683	17,136	21,935	23,418	22,652
Cream of Tartar	90,312	39,851	39,816	24,029	22,385
Perfumery and Toilet Preparations ..	28,331	16,492	18,429	19,626	24,983
All other Articles	254,454	171,805	239,341	336,313	385,302
Total	1,545,833	1,140,223	1,396,191	1,860,115	1,886,495
<i>Exported from Victoria to France.</i>					
Butter .. .. .	..	59,961	16,863	26,172	14,717
Wheat and Flour	1,162,663	433,992	125,747	179,041	2,175,197
Hides and Skins	32,581	186,783	372,094	408,672	532,139
Wool	230,398	1,252,317	1,809,489	2,148,671	2,453,911
Zinc Bars, &c. .. .. .	..	..	36,600	21,300	..
Tallow (unrefined) .. .. .	..	8,027	3,188	999	11,393
All other Articles	20,711	23,924	10,440	16,224	18,400
Total	1,446,353	1,965,004	2,374,421	2,801,079	5,205,757

Trade with
Germany.

The trade with Germany, which amounted to 8·4 per cent. of the total with oversea countries in 1913, was discontinued early in the year 1914-15 owing to the outbreak of war and the passing of the *Trading with the Enemy Act* 1914. The embargo against exports to Germany was removed on 2nd

December, 1920. The importation of German goods, except by permits granted by the Minister for Trade and Customs, was not permitted until 1st August, 1922. For restrictions under Industries Preservation Act, see page 414 of *Victorian Year-Book*, 1923-24.

The principal articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH GERMANY, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Articles.	Value in year ended 30th June—				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of German origin).</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Apparel—					
Gloves .. .. .	..	..	7,437	48,907	143,177
Other .. .. .	..	4	14,545	45,787	75,264
Piece Goods .. .. .	..	..	8,499	42,187	56,899
Machines and Machinery ..	4,913	59,227	89,948	88,680	98,254
Metals and Metal Manufactures—					
Vehicles .. .. .	..	33	47,172	33,912	17,087
Platedware and Cutlery ..	..	..	3,427	6,095	19,208
Other	153	977	12,759	25,425	57,766
Toys .. .. .	..	..	11,398	20,213	48,891
Timepieces	2	..	1,299	12,238	30,202
Optical, Surgical, and Scientific Instruments	1,034	116	11,385	24,645	21,549
Drugs, Chemicals, and Fertilizers	37,059	5,333	13,497	19,641	31,961
Musical Instruments	20	29	39,850	116,390	178,824
All other Articles	2,926	577	33,910	98,544	160,162
Total	46,107	66,296	295,126	582,664	939,334
<i>Exported from Victoria to Germany.</i>					
Fruits (all kinds)	2	2	..	3,692	20,351
Wheat and Flour	554,431	157,195	9	10,930	512,410
Wool	35,846	199,292	195,397	544,020	315,892
Hides and Skins .. .. .	..	7,273	11,933	39,569	111,112
Silver Lead Concentrates ..	..	23,208	30,136	..	..
Tallow .. .. .	..	3,870	12,486	5,739	26,279
Casein .. .. .	..	..	18,685	12,575	16,773
All other Articles	1,647	8,795	26,683	36,262	41,090
Total	591,926	399,635	295,279	652,787	1,043,907

Trade with
Japan.

The value of Japanese goods received has steadily declined since the termination of the war, and represented only 2·4 per cent. of the total overseas imports in 1924-25, as compared with 8·8 per cent. in 1918-19. The exports to Japan during 1924-25 were £995,403 less than in the previous year. The principal articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH JAPAN, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Japanese origin).</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Grass or Straw, &c.	26,223	310	15,765	15,497	11,016
Hosiery and Knitted Articles	28,928	25,976	27,021	19,029	21,405
Shirts, Collars, Pyjamas, &c.	4,883	943	1,818	2,039	2,983
Socks and Stockings	37,917	4,574	5,194	4,038	5,439
Buttons, Buckles, &c.	33,345	12,665	21,018	12,761	15,388
Cosies, Cushions, &c.	2,499	1,100	1,831	1,557	893
Piece Goods—Silk	570,029	622,213	605,809	663,628	782,184
" " Cotton and Linen	268,201	64,912	175,976	159,853	211,441
" " Other	49,376	3,053	7,057	14,065	6,347
Oils	21,637	13,685	14,344	6,261	5,914
Electrical Machinery and Appliances	45,736	3,847	6,951	6,798	3,787
Timber	21,816	7,409	18,658	13,159	35,736
China ware	55,605	26,433	26,701	20,622	18,235
Glass and Glassware	87,486	28,733	26,949	21,895	15,822
Fancy Goods	41,022	20,879	46,328	29,668	22,153
Sulphur—Brimstone	6,078	1,833	..	..	..
All other Articles	436,330	222,673	202,396	148,603	151,361
Total	1,737,111	1,061,238	1,203,346	1,145,473	1,310,104
<i>Exported from Victoria to Japan.</i>					
Butter	4,357	4,734	2,197	3,644	939
Milk and Cream	60	72,443	481,161	328,343	162,462
Grain and Pulse	26,251	1,522,437	519,919	958,554	323,666
Wool	443,940	636,404	1,050,369	1,416,989	1,259,470
Tallow (unrefined)	30,500	56,015	40,525	55,933	30,313
Fertilizers	2,314	20,034	26,495	5,412	1,130
All other Articles	121,226	187,367	33,295	52,317	47,799
Total	628,648	2,499,434	2,153,961	2,821,192	1,825,784

Trade with
United States
of America

The value of the trade with the United States in 1925 was £13,015,720, or 13·6 per cent. of the value of the Victorian overseas trade. As compared with the year 1924 the value of this trade had decreased by £291,501, there having been a decrease

in imports of United States origin of £1,413,687 and an increase in exports of £1,122,186. The principal articles included in the trade with the United States in the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH
THE UNITED STATES, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Imported into Victoria (of United States origin).</i>					
Sausage Casings	67,269	59,794	76,851	49,150	65,169
Tobacco, &c.	716,674	672,857	555,589	834,916	541,201
Gums and Resins	63,095	15,202	12,296	13,662	22,619
Apparel—					
Socks and Stockings	464,181	146,950	171,004	131,411	83,279
Gloves	142,998	61,559	65,336	48,754	17,532
Other	329,040	155,736	267,147	240,032	204,042
Textiles—					
Piece Goods	736,013	231,426	307,954	244,158	176,594
Other	111,751	56,659	82,667	88,811	75,580
Manufactured Fibres and Yarns ..	38,483	11,333	28,324	61,869	59,471
Oils	1,389,584	790,096	1,025,939	1,436,465	1,603,232
Machines and Machinery	1,344,129	1,186,239	1,338,136	1,525,756	1,276,774
Metals and metal manufactures—					
Vehicles and parts	843,173	474,371	1,095,199	2,550,731	2,602,346
Iron and Steel	1,062,952	188,598	266,554	177,819	179,838
Tools of Trade	193,041	96,095	127,021	213,312	166,647
Other	565,370	346,444	354,493	520,553	378,403
Rubber, &c.	219,821	70,584	158,889	344,156	268,563
Leather, &c.	285,989	121,825	222,271	118,581	90,329
Timber	672,815	264,011	698,791	1,169,650	633,594
Paper	319,198	108,081	95,971	99,826	79,734
Stationery	137,107	65,556	111,315	126,360	121,694
Jewellery, Timepieces, and Fancy Goods	98,043	75,553	87,610	117,102	72,649
Optical, Surgical, and Scientific Instruments	136,465	85,186	133,469	142,570	155,350
Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives ..	82,079	12,328	28,441	33,010	32,518
Instruments—Musical	219,517	95,431	116,850	256,625	198,859
All other Articles	1,313,696	743,641	578,844	676,316	700,911
Total	11,552,483	6,135,555	8,006,961	11,220,595	9,806,908
<i>Exported from Victoria to the United States.</i>					
Sausage Casings	61,770	95,105	78,672	16,537	45,049
Fruits, dried	87,093	4,984	6	106	956
Hides and Skins	117,285	76,485	351,732	90,259	281,777
Wool	1,422,716	1,969,796	2,154,892	1,906,917	2,808,723
Platinum—Bars, Blocks, &c. ..	51,678	21,639	374	4,911	16,256
All other Articles	240,957	174,619	92,678	67,896	56,051
Total	1,981,499	2,342,628	2,678,354	2,086,626	3,208,812

Wool, wheat and flour, butter, hides and skins, fruits (all kinds), and milk and cream were the six principal articles exported from Victoria in 1925—their value being equal to about 89 per cent. of the total exports. The

Destination of
principal
articles
exported.

countries which received these products are shown in the following statement:—

DESTINATION OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED IN 1924-25.

Destination.	Wool.	Wheat and Flour.	Butter.	Hides and Skins.	Fruits (all kinds).	Milk and Cream.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5,973,351	4,536,944	3,442,588	1,124,305	1,588,458	111,667
Canada	39,159	..	..	11,838	6,975	..
Hong Kong .. ..	..	158,770	1,405	..	2,482	29,163
India and Ceylon ..	103,884	121,759	10,842	..	7,362	159,010
Malaya (British) ..	6,030	78,341	54,714	341	2,267	481,568
Mauritius .. ..	..	83,076	6,919	..	8	..
New Zealand	1,054	138,524	7	2,480	189,486	1,254
South African Union ..	2,703	718,967	12,298	1,487	4,493	178,050
Other British Countries	..	32,050	1,582	..	1,360	545
Africa, Portuguese East	..	41,639	..	..	205	645
Belgium	417,542	434,464	13,071	45,209	8	270
Canary Islands .. ..	..	134,503	..	..	..	..
China	1,343	347	28,226	..	1,938	40,320
Egypt .. ..	..	895,062	32,515	..	1,500	318
Finland	78,532	..	..	45	..	..
France	2,453,911	2,175,197	14,717	532,139	4	..
Germany	315,892	512,410	3,565	111,112	20,351	..
Greece .. ..	..	..	497	..	18	..
Italy	784,828	1,644,806	..	32,550	..	..
Japan	1,259,470	321,532	939	11,413	566	162,462
Netherlands	170,862	125,807	4,600	3,345	594	150
Netherlands East Indies	..	304,156	413,730	..	22,155	448,128
Norway	3,897	12,293	..	..	2	..
Peru .. ..	..	80,394	49	..	..	..
Philippine Islands ..	3,044	7,911	405	..	206	3,707
Spain .. ..	..	97,018	..	..	..	..
Sweden	20,950	44,907	..	..	..	..
Turkey .. ..	..	87,541	..	..	..	..
United States of America	2,808,723	..	..	281,777	1,015	..
Other Foreign Countries	1,203	34,100	8,963	100	207	2,811
Total	14,446,378	12,822,518	4,051,632	2,158,241	1,851,710	1,620,068

SHIPPING.

Victorian shipping as dealt with in the succeeding tables refers to vessels trading with other States and oversea countries; the tonnage quoted is net. Vessels trading on the Victorian coast and on the River Murray have not been taken into consideration. In the particulars of the shipping at Victorian ports (page 447) and at the port of Melbourne (page 449) coastal shipping is included.

The number of vessels entered and cleared, their total tonnage, and the number of men forming their crews in each of the last five years were as follows:—

OVERSEA AND INTERSTATE SHIPPING, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

	Year ended 30th June—				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Vessels Entered—					
Number	2,246	2,442	2,634	2,666	2,577
Tons	4,663,126	5,506,127	6,611,352	6,782,495	6,807,357
Average tonnage ..	2,076	2,255	2,510	2,544	2,642
Crews	134,671	148,879	*	*	*
Vessels Cleared—					
Number	2,248	2,436	2,634	2,676	2,605
Tons	4,651,818	5,518,393	6,618,968	6,749,873	6,876,355
Average tonnage ..	2,069	2,265	2,513	2,522	2,640
Crews	132,728	148,644	*	*	*

* Not available.

The figures in the above table for the year 1925 show an increase in the tonnage of vessels as compared with each of the preceding four years. For the twelve months ended 30th June, 1925, steamers numbered 2,548 of the vessels entered, and 2,575 of the vessels cleared, their tonnage aggregating 6,794,437 and 6,863,401 respectively.

The inward shipping of 1925 included 85 vessels in ballast, of an aggregate tonnage of 272,447, whilst the outward shipping included 323 vessels in ballast, having an aggregate tonnage of 582,258.

Shipping with
principal
countries.

The more important of the countries having shipping communication with Victoria in 1924-25 are set out in the following statement :—

SHIPPING WITH PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES, 1924-25.

Countries.	Entered.				Cleared.			
	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	Num-ber.	Net Tonnage.	Num-ber.	Ton-nage.	Num-ber.	Net Tonnage.	Num-ber.	Ton-nage.
Australian States	1,794	3,591,216	21	2,104	1,961	4,232,304	23	4,318
United Kingdom	195	1,299,453	1	2,164	222	1,351,809	3	5,887
New Zealand	60	102,256	3	527	57	105,510	3	585
India	27	93,987	..	..	11	39,703	..	..
Straits Settlements	22	71,596	..	..	19	63,287	..	..
Other British	84	248,443	3	6,354	62	167,460	..	..
Total British Countries	2,182	5,408,951	28	11,149	2,332	5,960,087	29	10,790
Japan	58	193,029	..	..	45	155,417	..	..
Dutch East Indies	36	113,368	..	..	45	144,882	..	..
United States	136	544,764	..	..	24	102,603	..	..
Other Foreign	138	536,325	1	1,771	129	500,412	1	2,164
Total Foreign Countries	366	1,387,486	1	1,771	243	903,314	1	2,164
Total	2,548	6,794,437	29	12,920	2,575	6,863,401	30	12,954

Nationality of
vessels.

The nationality of vessels entered and cleared at Victorian ports for the year 1924-25 was as shown hereunder :—

NATIONALITY OF SHIPPING, 1924-25.

Nationality.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
British—				
Australian	1,599	2,363,507	1,618	2,352,867
United Kingdom	601	3,211,099	611	3,286,137
Canadian	20	73,266	20	72,918
New Zealand	49	86,369	47	80,810
South African	5	12,915	5	12,915
Other British	14	27,681	14	29,237
Total British	2,288	5,774,837	2,315	5,834,884
Foreign—				
Dutch	37	141,314	41	157,400
French	12	53,167	12	53,167
German	31	99,359	30	98,107
Italian	35	138,253	34	132,825
Japanese	59	210,360	57	202,445
Norwegian	46	153,884	45	149,930
Swedish	25	73,778	29	90,135
United States	34	131,915	32	126,972
Other Foreign	10	30,490	10	30,490
Total Foreign	289	1,032,520	290	1,041,471
Total	2,577	6,807,357	2,605	6,876,355

Shipping
entered at
Victorian
Ports.

Particulars of shipping—oversea, interstate, and coast-wise—which entered at each port of Victoria are given in the following statement for the year ended 30th June, 1925 :—

VESSELS ENTERED AT EACH OF THE VICTORIAN PORTS, 1924-25.

Direction.	Melbourne.		Cunning- hame (Lakes Entrance).		Geelong.		Portland.		Warrnam- bool.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
Oversea—										
Steam ..	696	3,002,988	..	..	40	136,132	17	63,448	1	653
Sailing ..	8	10,816	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Inter-State—										
Steam ..	1,666	3,370,322	..	..	112	206,128	..	..	16	14,766
Sailing ..	21	2,104	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oversea <i>via</i> Ports—										
Steam ..	10	37,422	..	..	23	91,341	3	12,014	..	..
Sailing ..	..	..	..	..	1	2,652	..	..	..	..
Inter-State <i>via</i> Ports—										
Steam ..	42	83,272	..	..	4	5,349	5	22,018	..	..
Local (within the State)—										
Steam ..	1,320	425,580	52	7,514	393	119,212	93	59,663	129	32,416
Sailing ..	199	7,138	..	..	1	1,565	..	..	..	..
Total—										
Steam ..	3,734	6,919,584	52	7,514	572	558,162	118	157,143	146	47,835
Sailing ..	219	20,058	..	..	2	4,217	..	..	..	..
Grand Total	3,953	6,939,642	52	7,514	574	562,379	118	157,143	146	47,835

NOTE.—“Ports” mean Victorian ports.

Vessels on
Victorian
register.

The number of vessels on the Victorian register on 31st December, 1924, their net tonnage, and the ports of registration are given in the statement which follows :—

VESSELS ON THE VICTORIAN REGISTER, 1924.

Port of Registration.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	Number.	Net Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Net Tonnage.
Melbourne ..	208	136,431	132	31,165	340	167,596
Geelong ..	3	432	1	16	4	448
Port Fairy ..	3	621	..	..	3	621
Total ..	214	137,484	133	31,181	347	168,665

During 1924 there were added to the register 17 steamers with net tonnage of 8,577, and one sailing vessel with a tonnage of 272; whilst 16 steamers having net tonnage of 12,636, and one sailing vessel having tonnage of 77, were taken off the register.

Ferry Service.

The Williamstown City Council owns one steamer, which is engaged in the transport of passengers between Port Melbourne and Williamstown. It is licensed to carry 342 passengers. During the year 1924-25 the approximate number of passengers carried was 245,000, whilst the total revenue and expenditure amounted to £7,000 and £8,323 respectively. There were 6 persons employed, and the total mileage was 21,600.

PORT OF MELBOURNE.

Port of Melbourne.

The port of Melbourne is under the control of the Melbourne Harbor Trust, which has 10·4 miles of wharfs; piers, and jetties in the River Yarra, Victoria Dock, and Hobson's Bay. The area of these wharfs is 65 acres, of which 26 acres are under sheds. The constitution of the Trust and the revenue and expenditure are shown in part "Municipal Statistics."

Port Improvement.

An additional railway pier at Port Melbourne (called Prince's Pier) was completed in 1915, its length being 1,902 feet, and its width 186 feet. The total cost of the pier and super-structures was £215,792. Dredging has been completed to 37 feet, to provide for four berths for vessels drawing 35 feet. Two shelter sheds are provided, which are connected with vessels by movable gangways bridging the railway lines. Passengers are thus enabled to board and disembark from vessels clear of the railway traffic.

Another modern pier is being constructed on the site of the old railway pier at Port Melbourne, to be called "Station Pier." This new structure will be similar in design to the Prince's Pier, and will have a length of 2,200 feet, and a width of 195 feet which will allow of the installation of electric travelling cranes on both sides of the pier when required. The pier will ultimately provide four berths for oversea steamers with a depth of 37 feet below low water, at an estimated cost (including dredging) of £492,880. The construction of two inner berths, as a provision for bay excursion steamers, has been completed. The expenditure on this work to 31st December, 1924, amounted to £172,879.

The channel leading to the piers at Port Melbourne and Williamstown is 600 feet wide, and dredging is in progress to provide a depth of 37 feet at low water. The first stage of providing a depth of 34 feet has been completed, and a channel with this depth is now open for the full width of 600 feet.

The construction of the new Central Pier at the Victoria Dock was completed in 1916. A bed for the centre roadway on this pier was formed by the insertion of reinforced concrete plates on which wood blocks have been laid. The expenditure on the pier to 31st December, 1924, including the erection of six cargo sheds, was £201,209.

The widening of the swinging basin on the south side of the river; and the erection of a timber wharf around the basin, have been completed. This work makes the width of the river at the basin 700 feet for a length of 1,000 feet. The river below the swinging basin as far as the Coode Canal, viz., for 4,480 feet, is being widened by 100 feet; 1,930 feet has been completed, leaving 2,550 feet still to be put in hand. The works being carried out in this connexion are:—Construction of reinforced concrete sheet piling, erection of wharf in front of sheet piling, demolition of the old wharf and sheet piling, and dredging to a depth of 27 feet. The swinging basin has been dredged to 27 feet O.L.W. The cost of these works to 31st December, 1924, was £272,713; the estimated total cost is £341,158.

Dredging. The material dredged and disposed of during 1924 amounted to 3,327,752 barge yards, viz., 1,180,364 barge yards from the Bay within the Harbor Trust boundary, and 2,147,388 barge yards from the River Yarra and Victoria Dock. Since the establishment of the Trust the river dredgings have amounted to 42,635,815, and the Bay dredgings to 38,487,290 barge yards, making a total of 81,123,105 barge yards. Of the dredgings 62,222,823 barge yards were deposited in deep water and 18,900,282 barge yards were landed and deposited for reclamation work. The average cost of dredging, towing, and depositing in 1924 was 12·61d. per barge yard.

Berthing Accommodation. There is a berthing space of 51,287 feet, the whole of which has a good depth of water—7,780 feet at Williamstown, 7,526 feet at Port Melbourne, 22,597 feet in the River Yarra, and 11,760 feet in the Victoria Dock.

Trade of the Port. In the year 1924 vessels to the number of 4,438, comprising 3,809 steamers, 6 ships, 8 barques, 2 barquentines, 223 ketches, 75 schooners, and 315 lighters, with registered gross tonnage aggregating 11,833,416, berthed within the port. The tonnage of imports in 1924 was 3,569,627, and that of exports, 1,467,605. These figures include New Zealand and Interstate tonnage, which amounted to 1,907,160 in the case of imports, and 707,289 in the case of exports. Coal forms a great part of the Interstate imports. Exclusive of transshipments, 1,224,542 tons of coal were imported in 1924.

POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, AND TELEPHONES.

Rates of postage.

The following are the principal postal charges within the Commonwealth, as from 1st October, 1923:—

Letters	..	..	..	..	..	1½d. per ounce
Letter-cards	..	..	..	..	..	Single, 1½d. each
Post-cards	..	..	..	..	..	Single, 1d. each
Printed papers (other than newspapers)	..	..	..	..	..	1d. per 4 ounces
Books printed in Australia	..	..	..	..	..	1d. per 8 ounces
Books printed outside Australia	..	..	..	..	..	1d. per 4 ounces
Magazines printed and published in Australia	..	..	..	..	each	1d. per 8 ounces
Magazines printed and published outside Australia	..	..	..	..	each	1d. per 4 ounces
Commercial papers, patterns, samples, and merchandise as prescribed	..	..	..	..	..	1d. per 2 ounces
Newspapers printed and published in Australia	..	..	..	..	each	1d. per 10 ounces
Newspapers printed and published outside Australia	..	..	..	..	each	1d. per 4 ounces

The rate of postage on letters to all places within the British Empire is the same as applies to places within the Commonwealth, viz., 1½d. per ounce. To the United States of America and all foreign countries the rate of postage is 3d. for the first ounce and 1½d. for each additional ounce.

Cable rates. The ordinary rate for cabling to the United Kingdom is 2s. 6d. per word, and the deferred rate is 1s. 3d. per word. Deferred cablegrams are transmitted only after the despatch of non-urgent private cablegrams and press cablegrams. In January, 1913, the Pacific Cable Board instituted a tariff for week-end cable letters which is available between Australia and the United Kingdom. The rate is now 7½d. per word, with a minimum charge of 12s. 6d. Week-end messages may be lodged up to midnight on Saturday, and are deliverable on Tuesday morning, or if practicable on Monday. These messages are also available to Canada at a charge of 5½d. per word, with a minimum charge of 9s. 7d. per message. A new service *viâ* either "Pacific" or "Eastern" has been instituted, and is known as "Daily Letter Telegram." The rate to the United Kingdom is 9d. per word, with a minimum charge of 15s. per message. Messages by this service are accepted any day except Sunday, and are subject to a normal delay of 48 hours.

Postal Returns.

The following table shows the destination of letters, newspapers, packets, and parcels posted in Victoria, whether for delivery inside the Commonwealth or to oversea countries.

The recording of the numbers of letters, &c., received from other States

has been discontinued, only those received in Victoria from outside the Commonwealth being given :—

POSTAL RETURNS : 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Service.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.					
Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	139,011,219	149,921,631	157,552,117	169,736,677	177,065,374
Outside the Commonwealth	5,308,217	4,743,414	5,246,566	7,253,801	8,323,470
Total	144,319,436	154,665,045	162,798,683	176,990,478	185,388,844
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	14,064,345	13,946,384	14,102,942	16,263,751	18,485,872

REGISTERED LETTERS AND ARTICLES.

Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	1,527,973	1,529,748	1,566,130	1,689,094	1,706,602
Outside the Commonwealth	77,330	77,182	81,966	91,757	112,499
Total	1,605,303	1,606,930	1,648,096	1,780,851	1,819,101
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	126,591	119,567	132,574	131,560	125,321

NEWSPAPERS.

Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	26,554,335	27,631,937	33,120,157	35,042,439	37,986,920
Outside the Commonwealth	1,336,918	1,264,932	1,368,343	1,413,324	2,085,108
Total	27,891,253	28,896,869	34,488,500	36,455,763	40,072,028
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	1,550,950	2,396,421	2,775,606	3,785,421	4,756,226

PACKETS.

Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	8,507,077	10,386,880	11,947,310	12,831,486	15,382,190
Outside the Commonwealth	364,962	344,987	310,219	333,601	413,053
Total	8,872,039	10,731,867	12,257,529	13,165,087	15,795,243
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	439,090	642,793	588,805	796,493	1,068,803

PARCELS.

Posted for delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	1,454,853	1,909,355	2,072,153	2,007,259	2,324,398
Outside the Commonwealth	56,610	48,211	53,504	69,783	44,595
Total	1,511,463	1,957,566	2,125,657	2,077,042	2,368,993
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	97,956	90,154	122,929	122,566	128,506

The number of letters and other postal articles dealt with by the Dead Letter Office in Victoria during each of the last two years was as follows:—

DEAD LETTERS, ETC., 1923-24 AND 1924-25.

How dealt with.	1923-24.		1924-25.	
	Letters and Post Cards.	Packets and Newspapers.	Letters and Post Cards.	Packets and Newspapers.
<i>Inland.</i>				
Returned to writers or delivered	324,965	152,886	314,444	150,611
Destroyed in accordance with Act	45,479	204,999	61,090	173,198
<i>Inter-State.</i>				
Originally addressed to other States—				
Returned to writers ..	32,047	48,737	53,652	37,022
Destroyed in accordance with Act	9,268	101,988	10,818	91,598
Returned to other States as unclaimed	39,510	16,207	40,009	41,489
<i>International.</i>				
Originally addressed to other Countries—				
Returned to writers ..	16,991	11,914	15,806	9,393
Destroyed in accordance with Act	3,971	159,530	3,460	189,197
Returned to other Countries as unclaimed	28,356	38,091	31,421	19,480
Total	500,587	734,352	530,700	711,988

The above return includes for 1924-25 letters containing money to the amount of £49,711; letters containing other articles of value to the number of 593; and letters, &c., irregularly posted, 42,066. In the figures for that year are also included 15,362 registered letters, viz.:—12,968 inland, 1,314 interstate, and 1,080 international.

**Money Orders
and Postal
Notes.**

The following table shows the total number and value of money orders and postal notes issued and paid in Victoria in each of the last five years:—

MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL NOTES, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

—		1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Number of Money Order Offices open		554	573	582	616	640
Money Orders issued—						
Inland ..	{ Number ..	350,958	389,926	422,505	426,716	441,152
	{ Amount £	2,211,109	2,103,788	2,119,437	2,238,532	2,338,892
Inter-State ..	{ Number ..	64,520	65,461	74,021	78,676	82,854
	{ Amount £	363,681	370,498	429,521	464,133	498,011
International ..	{ Number ..	57,776	59,046	65,550	73,537	73,966
	{ Amount £	258,158	210,161	222,570	260,011	250,643
Total ..	{ Number ..	473,254	514,433	562,036	578,929	597,972
	{ Amount £	2,832,948	2,684,447	2,771,531	2,962,676	3,087,546
Money Orders Paid—						
Inland ..	{ Number ..	356,891	388,795	400,109	417,165	444,721
	{ Amount £	2,212,045	2,110,891	2,118,513	2,236,254	2,346,425
Inter-State ..	{ Number ..	122,188	124,343	125,980	132,281	138,514
	{ Amount £	676,755	663,754	666,075	673,527	712,355
International ..	{ Number ..	34,567	32,465	32,322	35,660	37,160
	{ Amount £	146,004	123,089	124,938	144,850	149,429
Total ..	{ Number ..	513,646	545,603	558,421	585,106	620,335
	{ Amount £	3,034,804	2,897,734	2,909,516	3,054,631	3,208,709
Postal Notes—						
Sold ..	{ Number ..	3,275,352	3,774,184	4,013,977	4,448,002	4,346,270
	{ Amount £	1,044,786	1,180,819	1,210,935	1,388,015	1,447,297
Inland, Issued and Paid ..	{ Number ..	2,198,170	2,340,742	2,456,462	2,618,976	2,766,744
	{ Amount £	777,706	834,474	879,054	930,079	998,214
Victorian—Paid in ..	{ Number ..	1,075,914	1,433,442	1,531,548	1,804,695	1,532,740
other States ..	{ Amount £	268,329	346,345	357,147	420,519	444,328
Of other States—	{ Number ..	330,274	338,118	353,203	363,350	381,528
Paid in Victoria ..	{ Amount £	125,800	129,707	134,432	135,889	142,718

Of the orders issued in 1924-25, 6,764 for £27,257 were payable in New Zealand, and 54,315 for £159,980 were payable in the United Kingdom. The orders paid included 20,826 for £72,009 issued in New Zealand, and 11,245 for £52,990 issued in the United Kingdom.

**Telegraphs
and
telegrams.**

There are 2,219 telegraph offices in the State, 138 of which are attached to the railway service. The number of telegrams sent from Victorian offices, and the number

received from outside the State, in each of the last five years, were as follows :—

**TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED AND RECEIVED, 1920-21
TO 1924-25.**

	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Telegrams despatched—					
Inland	2,703,781	2,593,954	2,687,030	2,813,300	2,910,978
Inter-State ..	1,240,840	1,177,108	1,227,522	1,297,652	1,336,764
International ..	152,222	169,105	180,311	197,290	214,048
Total	4,096,843	3,940,167	4,094,863	4,308,242	4,461,790
Telegrams received—					
Inter-State ..	1,277,836	1,215,826	1,228,851	1,302,006	1,302,067
International ..	150,207	161,345	175,429	205,568	216,734
Total	1,428,043	1,377,171	1,404,280	1,507,574	1,518,801

Telephones. There were 1,216 telephone exchanges in Victoria on 30th June, 1925. Formerly, the connexion of one subscriber to a telephone office constituted an exchange, but the rule now followed is that at least two subscribers must be connected before an office becomes an exchange. The actual number of subscribers' lines on the date mentioned was 81,794, with 112,226 telephones connected which represented 6·72 to every 100 persons in the State. Telephone bureaux for the use of the public are placed in prominent positions in or near public buildings, post-offices, railway stations, &c. The number of these on 30th June, 1925, was 1,846.

Wireless Licences issued. Details of wireless licences issued in Victoria for the year ended 30th June, 1925, are shown hereunder. The licences issued to broadcast listeners in Victoria represented about 32 per cent. of the total for Australia.

WIRELESS LICENCES ISSUED IN VICTORIA, 1924-25.

Class of Licence.	Number.
Coast	1
Ship	58
Broadcasting A	2
Broadcasting B	3
Broadcast Listeners—	
Ordinary	19,243
Special	24
Temporary	93
Experimental—	
Transmitting and Receiving	94
Receiving only	229
Dealers' Listening	807
Proficiency Certificates—Watchers	7

Post Office
revenue and
expenditure.

Particulars concerning the revenue and expenditure of the Post and Telegraph Department in Victoria for the years 1919-20 to 1923-24 are contained in the following table:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF POST AND TELEGRAPH
DEPARTMENT IN VICTORIA, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Particulars.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
<i>Revenue.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Postage	826,875	1,190,299	1,362,344	1,417,267	1,256,509
Money Order Commission	34,023	39,428	40,839	42,837	46,454
Poundage on Postal Notes					
Private Boxes and Bags	7,007	7,768	8,519	8,908	9,778
Miscellaneous	78,710	64,485	84,722	78,637	118,269
Total Postal	946,615	1,301,980	1,496,424	1,547,649	1,431,010
Telegraph	260,930	283,420	293,683	303,992	311,621
Telephones	596,290	687,319	768,860	846,610	943,595
Grand Total*	1,803,835	2,272,719	2,558,972	2,698,251	2,686,226
<i>Expenditure.</i>					
Salaries and Contingencies—					
Salaries	849,155	1,033,176	1,086,733	1,198,594	1,270,996
Conveyance of Mails	144,418	166,259	239,094	205,687	220,780
Contingencies	341,152	412,034	459,275	369,157	427,111
Miscellaneous	9,124	13,392	23,568	21,697	17,607
Pensions and Retiring Allowances	35,403	38,320	42,398	45,309	46,840
Rents, Repairs, Maintenance, Fittings, &c.	14,198	18,794	23,318	25,279	32,928
Supervision of Public Works	577	188	292	344	403
Proportion of Audit Expenses	1,775	2,326	2,513	2,905	3,014
Unforeseen Expenditure	39	9	20	26	15
New Works—					
Telegraph and Telephone	95,709	212,599	530,903	559,128	918,824
New Buildings, &c.	2,350	7,973	19,329	26,219	98,197
Interest on Transferred Properties	45,765	45,964	46,490	42,493	43,194
Total Expenditure†	1,539,665	1,950,984	2,473,933	2,496,838	3,079,909

* Actual collections.

† Actual payments, including loan expenditure, as follows:—£56,906 in 1919-20, £436 in 1920-21, £260,807 in 1921-22, £416,901 in 1922-23, and £787,323 in 1923-24.

RAILWAYS.

Victorian
Railways,
length and
cost.

All railways in Victoria available for general traffic are with the two exceptions referred to on page 465, the property of the State, and are under the management of three Commissioners appointed by the Government.

The succeeding tables relate to the State railways, and the St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Tramways—all of which are under the control of the Railways Commissioners. The operations of the tramways mentioned are also shown separately on page 463. The usual motive power is steam, but electric traction is used on the suburban lines (with the exception of a portion of the Outer Circle line), and on the $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles of tramways referred to above.

The gauge of the lines is 5 ft. 3 in., with the exception of 121·9 miles of single lines, of which the gauge is 2 ft. 6 in., and 2·41 miles (2·21 miles double and ·20 mile single) of electric street tramway, of which the gauge is 4 ft. 8½ in. The following table shows the length of double and single lines, the cost of construction, and the average cost per mile at the close of each of the last five years :—

**RAILWAYS, LENGTH AND COST OF CONSTRUCTION,
1920-21 TO 1924-25.**

	Year ended 30th June—				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Length of Lines opened to 30th June—					
Double Lines (miles)	330·41	332·04	336·25	338·35	338·38
Single Lines (miles)	3,991·70	4,040·35	4,052·46	4,151·69	4,200·60
Total	4,322·11	4,372·39	4,388·71	4,490·04	4,538·98
Cost of Construction	£ 39,681,760	£ 40,408,014	£ 40,743,821	£ 41,409,905	£ 41,967,054
Average Cost per mile	9,181	9,242	9,284	9,223	9,259

In addition to the lines embraced in this table the following were in course of construction on 30th June, 1925 :—

5 ft. 3 in. Gauge.	Miles.
*Moama to Balranald	120
*Gonn Crossing to Stony Crossing	38
Werrimul to the Hut	15½
Kooloonong to West Narrung	7
Total	180½

and the following lines had been authorized, but their construction had not been commenced :—

4 ft. 8½ in. Gauge.	Miles.
Black Rock to Beaumaris (electric street tramway) ..	2½
5 ft. 3 in. Gauge.	
*Euston to Benanee and beyond	30
*Mildura to Gol Gol	24
*Yarrawonga to Oaklands	37
Goroke to Morea	9
Kanagulk to Edenhope	37¾
Bowser to Peechelba	11
Marnoo to Wallaloo	6½
Total	157½

**Electrification
of suburban
lines.**

Parliament sanctioned the electrification of the Melbourne Suburban Railways in the year 1912, and the whole suburban system is now conducted under electric traction, with the exception of a small section of the Outer Circle line (between East Camberwell and Deepdene). Since electric traction was commenced in May, 1919, there has been a large development in the suburban passenger traffic—the number of passenger journeys having increased from 97,000,000 in 1917-18 to 158,000,000 in 1923-24, an increase of 63 per cent. There has been a check in the development of the suburban passenger traffic, due to increased tramway competition, and the operation of privately-owned motor omnibuses which for a time had unrestricted use of the public highways. The operations for 1924-25 disclose a falling off in traffic to the extent of 1,291,148 suburban passenger journeys—a reduction equivalent to '8 per cent. compared with 1923-24.

The high speed of the electric trains, together with the greater frequency of the service as compared with steam traction, has, in effect, brought the outlying districts closer to the city. It has thus given a considerable impetus to their development, while also benefiting the inner suburbs.

The original project of establishing an electrification scheme has developed in another highly important direction, viz., the supply of power for industrial purposes. The revenue from this source in 1924-25 was £218,797.

The total expenditure debited to the Electrification Capital Account to 30th June, 1925, was £6,595,720.

**Cost of
railways and
equipment.**

The capital cost of lines opened, works, rolling-stock and equipment at 30th June in each of the last five years was as follows :—

**CAPITAL COST OF RAILWAYS AND EQUIPMENT,
1921 TO 1925.**

30th June—				£
1921	..	..	..	60,012,250
1922	..	..	..	63,186,759
1923	..	..	..	64,938,085
1924	..	..	..	66,212,984
1925	..	..	..	67,470,720

The cost given is the actual cost of construction, exclusive of expenses of floating loans, &c. Of the capital expended to 30th June, 1925, £4,028,663 was derived from the general revenue, and the balance (£63,442,057) from loans. The latter liability is represented by debentures and stock outstanding to the nominal amount of £65,640,000, on which the annual interest payable is £3,000,900, or at the average rate of 4·572 per cent. The nominal amount of loans, however, was reduced by £2,193,463—the cost of flotation, together with the discount at time of flotation. It has been computed that, whilst the nominal rate of interest on loans outstanding on 30th June, 1925, was 4·572 per cent., the real interest on the net proceeds available for railway construction was 4·730 per cent.

The capital expenditure incurred to 30th June, 1925, in respect of lines now closed for traffic was approximately £359,407, and, for surveys of lines not constructed, £415,443. Both of these items are included in the totals shown above. The cost of lines in course of construction (£563,104) is, however, excluded.

**Railway
traffic.**

The mileage and the traffic of the railways since 30th June, 1920, are given in the following table :—

RAILWAYS—MILEAGE AND TRAFFIC, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

	Year ended 30th June—				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Miles Constructed ..	4,322·11	4,372·39	4,388·71	4,490·04	4,538·98
„ Dismantled ..	36·13	36·13	36·14	36·14	36·14
„ Closed to Traffic	11·83	11·83	11·62	11·62	11·62
„ Open for Traffic	4,274·15	4,324·43	4,340·95	4,442·28	4,491·22
Train Mileage* ..	16,583,638	15,830,605	16,323,481	17,245,219	18,172,188
Passenger Journeys..	140,850,933	149,223,529	163,120,037	175,030,787	173,653,504
Goods and Live Stock Carried (Tons) ..	7,572,993	7,491,031	7,517,216	8,309,543	8,959,556

* Excluding Departmental, Assistant, and Light Mileage for the last four years.

The mileage given in preceding tables relates to lines of railway, irrespective of the number of tracks, the actual length of which open for traffic on 30th June, 1925, was 4,858·24 miles of main tracks, and 983·61 miles of sidings.

The number of passengers carried in 1924-25 was the second highest on record and was only exceeded by 1,377,283 in 1923-24. Of the passenger journeys in 1924-25, 163,890,881 were made by metropolitan-suburban, and 9,765,623 by country passengers, there having been a decrease in the former of 1,247,709, and in the latter of 126,594, as compared with the corresponding journeys for the previous year. The tonnage of goods and live stock carried was 650,013 more than in 1923-24. The items of goods carried in 1924-25 showing greatest tonnage were stone, gravel, and sand, 1,632,236 tons; wheat, 1,520,584 tons; and firewood, 713,597 tons. Live stock carried in the same year had an aggregate weight of 512,627 tons, and comprised 34,538 horses, 514,360 cattle, 6,408,994 sheep, and 383,292 pigs.

**Flinders-street
Station
Traffic.**

A barrier tally of passengers leaving and entering the three metropolitan stations was taken under normal conditions early in December, 1924. The average daily number of passengers who travelled to and from Flinders-street and Prince's-bridge—which are connected and may be considered as one station—was 282,851, while the highest daily figure recorded for both stations combined was 299,019. In the following table is given an approximation to the average number of passengers who travelled daily to and from the three metropolitan stations in certain specified years from 1909 to 1924:—

Year.	Average Number of Passengers per Week-day at Stations—				
	Flinders-street.	Prince's-bridge.	Total for Flinders-street and Prince's-bridge.	Spencer-street (Suburban only).	Total for Three Stations.
1909 ..	129,449	20,099	149,548	14,546	164,094
1911 ..	145,257	20,740	165,997	20,670	186,667
1914 ..	182,870	27,403	210,273	21,636	231,909
1918 ..	161,363	26,033	187,396	21,836	209,232
1922 ..	209,181	31,958	241,139	44,469	285,608
1924 ..	238,303	44,548	282,851	42,564	325,415

The figures for Flinders-street and Prince's-bridge include both suburban and country travellers, but only suburban passengers are included in the numbers for Spencer-street.

The number of trains handled on an ordinary week-day at Flinders-street is approximately 2,800, and at Prince's-bridge 400.

Railway receipts and expenditure. The receipts and working expenses of the Railway Department during the last five financial years were as follows :—

**RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,
1920-21 TO 1924-25.**

	Year ended 30th June—				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts—					
Passenger, &c., Business—					
Passenger Fares	4,453,408	4,880,595	5,160,256	5,396,088	5,450,444
Parcels, &c. ..	415,675	458,914	473,007	486,397	501,109
Other ..	83,459	102,886	97,136	97,548	99,448
Goods, &c., Business—					
Goods ..	3,789,080	4,164,645	4,178,192	4,534,931	5,070,969
Live Stock ..	492,096	528,836	653,229	523,406	550,060
Minerals ..	130,100	121,575	121,771	146,189	154,493
Miscellaneous—					
Dining Car and Refreshment Services ..	284,124	294,046	308,116	345,161	407,848
Sale of Electrical Power ..	..	92,540	179,033	225,452	218,797
Rentals ..	85,736	103,744	117,673	119,300	124,883
Other ..	118,230	110,072	125,369	151,515	252,232
Total ..	9,851,908	10,857,853	11,413,782	12,025,987	12,830,283
Working Expenses—					
Way and Works ..	1,599,761	1,718,955	1,770,997	1,873,563	1,976,968
Rolling-stock ..	3,418,674	3,183,084	3,093,780	3,231,168	3,512,573
Transportation ..	2,508,790	2,664,486	2,685,068	2,880,700	3,121,115
Electrical Engineering Branch ..	146,698	264,825	406,870	538,547	564,264
Pensions and Gratuities ..	182,036	194,581	203,470	206,366	215,087
Other ..	237,910	261,215	282,029	252,536	314,448
Total ..	8,093,869	8,287,146	8,442,214	8,982,880	9,704,455
Net Receipts ..	1,758,039	2,570,707	2,971,568	3,043,107	3,125,828
Percentage of Expenses to Receipts	82·16	76·32	73·97	74·70	75·64

The railway receipts of 1924-25 were the highest recorded for any year, and exceeded those of 1923-24, which were the best previously recorded, by 6·7 per cent. Of the total increase as compared with 1923-24, viz:—£804,296, goods receipts accounted for £536,038, or 67 per cent thereof.

Railway
interest
charges
compared with
net revenue.

The amount of interest on current loans allocated to railways, together with the expenditure incurred by the Treasury in connexion with the payment of such interest, is compared with the net revenue of the Department for the last five years in the following statement :—

RAILWAY INTEREST CHARGES AND EXPENSES AND NET REVENUE, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Year.	Interest, &c.	Net Revenue.	Surplus (+) or Deficit(-)
	£	£	£
1920-21	2,409,674	1,758,039	— 651,635
1921-22	2,589,816	2,570,707	— 19,109
1922-23	2,951,385	2,971,568	+ 20,183
1923-24	3,015,455	3,043,107	+ 27,652*
1924-25	3,099,885	3,125,828	+ 25,943

* This is subject to a deduction of £136,417, which has been written off. After making this deduction there is a deficit of £108,765. The former amount (£136,417) represents the losses on non-paying lines for which credit was taken in revenue accounts of previous years, but which was not paid by the Government to the Railways Commissioners.

Railway
earnings and
expenses per
mile.

The earnings, expenses, and net profits per average mile of railway worked for each of the last five years were as follows :—

RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE PER AVERAGE MILE WORKED, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

—	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Average Number of Miles Open for Traffic	4,244	4,287	4,304	4,377	4,455
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross Earnings per Mile	2,321	2,533	2,652	2,747	2,880
Expenses per Mile	1,907	1,933	1,961	2,052	2,178
Net Profits per Mile	414	600	691	695	702

This table does not take account of the interest payable on railway loans and expenses of paying the same, which are given in the preceding table.

Railway Rolling-stock.

Particulars of the rolling-stock at 30th June, 1925, are shown in the next statement :—

RAILWAY ROLLING-STOCK AT 30TH JUNE, 1925.

Vehicles.	Broad-Gauge.	Narrow-Gauge.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
Locomotives—			
Steam	694	17	711
Electric	2	..	2
Steam Cranes	15	..	15
Rail Motors	35	..	35
Steam Coaching Stock	1,836	55	1,891
Electric Coaching Stock	801	..	801
Electric Tramway Stock	36	..	36
Goods Waggons	19,008	242	19,250
Service Stock	751	1	752

The capital cost of the broad-gauge stock was £12,354,805, of the narrow-gauge stock £109,539, and of the electric street tramway stock £101,204.

Railway staff. The number of officers and employees in the railway service and the amount of salaries and wages (excluding travelling and incidental expenses) paid in each of the last five financial years were as set forth below :—

RAILWAY STAFF—NUMBERS, SALARIES, ETC.

Year.	Number of Employees at end of Year.			Amount of Salaries and Wages Paid during Year
	Permanent.	Supernumerary.	Total.	
1920-21 ..	12,094	15,139	27,233	£ 5,895,347
1921-22 ..	19,273	7,688	26,961	6,388,508
1922-23 ..	19,450	7,295	26,745	6,293,720
1923-24 ..	19,057	8,562	27,619	6,651,251
1924-25 ..	18,798	10,354	29,152	6,969,519

St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Tramways. The results of operating the St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Tramways for 1924-25 are detailed in the following statement. As these tramways are controlled by the Railways Commissioners, particulars relating to them have been included in all the preceding railway tables.

ELECTRIC STREET TRAMWAYS, 1924-25.

	St. Kilda-Brighton Electric Tramway.	Sandringham- Black Rock Electric Tramway.
Average Mileage of Tramway Worked ..	5.18	2.41
Car Mileage	562,220	127,962
Number of Passengers Carried	5,737,101	1,475,261
	£	£
Gross Revenue	58,038	13,048
Working Expenses	48,942	10,699
Interest Charges	8,911	5,326
Net Result	Profit 185	Loss 2,977
Capital Expenditure at 30th June, 1925—		
Construction of Line	120,766	72,763
Rolling-stock	72,550	28,654

**Railway
accidents.**

The following table shows the number of persons killed or injured in railway accidents and the amount paid in compensation, damages, &c., for the year 1924-25 :—

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS, 1924-25.

Nature of Accident.	Killed.	Injured.
Train Accidents—		
Passengers .. .. .	..	..
Employees .. .. .	..	1
Accidents on Line (other than Train Accidents)—		
Passengers	7	133
Employees	5	103
Other Persons .. .. .	..	..
Shunting Accidents—		
Passengers .. .. .	..	..
Employees	5	44
Other Persons .. .. .	..	5
Employees proceeding to and from Duty ..	3	2
Accidents to Persons at Crossings	12	3
Trespassers	15	3
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	4
Total	47	298
Compensation, Damages, etc., Paid ..	£27,100	

The form of the above return is in accordance with a decision of the Interstate Conference of Railway Commissioners. For particulars relating to previous years, see *Victorian Year-Book*, 1923-24, page 435.

**Freights on
Victorian
railways.**

A statement of freights, operative on 1st October, 1925, in respect of commodities affecting rural producers, has been supplied by the General Passenger and Freight Agent of the Victorian Railways, and is appended hereto.

VICTORIAN RAILWAY GOODS RATES.

Commodities.	50 Miles.	100 Miles.	150 Miles.	200 Miles.	250 Miles.	300 Miles.	350 Miles.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Rate per Ton.							
Agricultural Produce, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.*	6 4	9 9	11 7	12 11	13 11	14 10	15 11
Dairy Produce, consisting of Butter, Milk, Cream, Cheese (boxed, minimum, 1 ton), and Eggs ..	12 2	22 8	30 4	38 1	43 6	48 9	54 2
Hams and Bacon (minimum, 1 ton) ..	13 6	25 1	33 7	42 4	48 4	54 2	60 2
Milk, in 4-ton lots ..	10 8	19 2	25 2	31 1	35 5	39 11	44 3
Fresh Fruit ..	8 1	14 5	18 11	23 5	26 7	30 0	33 4
Fresh Meat, in 5-ton lots; Fencing Wire, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.; Woolpacks and Cornsacks, in truck loads of 8 or 12 tons ..	11 10	21 4	28 0	34 6	39 4	44 4	49 2
Poultry (living) ..	16 11	31 4	42 0	52 11	60 5	67 9	75 3
Wool (greasy) ..	24 6	47 9	61 6	70 3	79 6	88 3	97 3
Agricultural Machinery and Implements, Binder Twine ..	26 3	51 0	76 3	94 9	113 6	126 0	138 9
Fencing Wire, in truck loads of 6 and 8 tons	16 7	32 0	46 7	57 7	68 10	74 2	79 7
Wire Netting, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent. ..	6 2	10 10	15 0	17 6	20 6	22 8	24 10
Manures, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent. ..	3 6	5 4	6 8	7 10	9 2	10 6	11 0
Rate per Truck.							
Live Stock (other than pigs) ..	57 6	111 0	130 0	171 0	213 0	254 0	296 0
Pigs ..	51 11	100 1	117 2	154 1	191 11	228 10	266 7

* Agricultural Produce includes Wheat, Oats, Barley, Maize, Beet, Onions, Hay, Straw, Chaff, Compressed Fodder, Flour, Bran, Pollard, Peas, Potatoes, Sharps, Pig Feed, and Malt; also Wine and Fruit, if produced in the Commonwealth and consigned direct for export. The minimum loadings for Chaff, Hay and Straw, and Pig Feed are as follows:—

	Per 10, 11, or 12-ton Truck.	Per 16-ton Truck.
	Tons.	Tons.
Hay and Straw	6	8
Chaff	7	10
Pig Feed	8	12

Fares on
Victorian
railways.

A summary of passenger fares, operative on 1st October, 1925, has been obtained from the Railway Department, and is given below.

VICTORIAN RAILWAY PASSENGER FARES.

Distance.	Single.		Return.*	
	1st Class.	2nd Class.	1st Class Holiday Excursion.	2nd Class Holiday Excursion.
Miles.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
50	9 9	6 6	16 3	10 10
100	18 11	12 7	31 7	21 1
150	28 0	18 8	46 11	31 3
200	37 9	25 2	63 2	42 1
250	47 2	31 6	78 9	52 6
300	52 9	35 2	88 3	58 9
350	58 5	38 11	97 4	64 11

* Tickets issued only at week-ends and on dates specially advertised.

Cheap excursion tickets, at the rate of 2½d. per mile for first class return and 1½d. per mile for second class return, are issued to and from Melbourne and the various country stations as may be advertised from time to time.

From the 15th October to the 30th April each year return tourist tickets are issued to various holiday resorts from all stations throughout Victoria at holiday excursion fares, and are available for two months from date of issue.

Municipal railway. A railway between Kerang and Koondrook, owned and worked by the municipality of the Shire of Kerang, is open for general traffic. This railway, which has a 5 ft. 3 in. gauge, is 13 miles 75 chains in length, and, up to the end of 1924, cost £37,407 for construction and equipment. For the year 1924 the gross receipts were £10,172 and the working expenses, £8,097. The train mileage for the same year was 9,982, the number of passenger-journeys was 16,530, and the tonnage of goods and live stock carried was 32,343.

Private railway. Another railway in Victoria, not belonging to the State system, is one of 3-ft. gauge and 12 miles in length between Yarra Junction and Powelltown. It was constructed principally for private use, but, in addition to serving its immediate purpose, it is engaged in the general business of transportation of passengers and goods. Up to 30th June, 1925, the cost of construction was £76,368, and for the year ended on the same date the receipts and working expenses (exclusive of depreciation and interest on capital) were £10,929 and £9,000 respectively. The above construction cost includes the cost of about 8 miles of steel tramway

continuation beyond Powelltown. This tramway is used for haulage of the logs of the company to which the line belongs and of sawn timber of other sawmillers, but not for passenger traffic. The freights on the extension line are included in the above receipts. The train mileage for the year between Powelltown and Yarra Junction was 17,160, and the passenger-journeys numbered 30,000.

TRAMWAYS.

The various tramway systems in the State comprise **Victorian tramways.** 45·576 miles of cable lines, double track, and 106·672 miles of electric lines, of which 66·110 miles are double, and 40·562 miles single track.

The electric street tramways, St. Kilda to Brighton and Sandringham to Black Rock, under the management of the Victorian Railways Commissioners, are not referred to in this connexion, being included under the heading "Railways," page 463.

The subjoined table contains particulars relating to all tramways in Victoria (with the above exceptions) for each of the last five years:—

VICTORIAN TRAMWAYS, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

(Exclusive of St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Street Tramways).

Financial Year.	Miles of Track Open.		Tram Mileage.	Number of Passengers carried.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling-stock.	Number of Persons employed.
	Double.	Single.						
1920-21	99·46	40·188	21,494,747	221,908,333	£ 1,730,521	£ 1,305,727	1,426	4,417
1921-22	100·016	44·148	22,369,483	226,738,318	1,943,805	1,472,296	1,470	4,586
1922-23	105·791	41·340	22,775,563	234,588,623	1,999,633	1,492,031	1,465	5,070
1923-24	105·360	41·499	23,242,072	229,771,075	1,956,904	1,641,339	1,502	5,887
1924-25	111·686	40·562	25,052,876	236,899,796	2,019,391	1,737,317	1,571	5,936

On 7th January, 1919, the Royal Assent was given to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act, which is administered by a Board consisting of seven members appointed by the Governor in Council. The Board assumed control of the Melbourne Cable Tramways on 1st November, 1919.

On 2nd February, 1920, the Electric Tramway systems of the following Trusts were vested in the Board:—Prahara and Malvern Tramways; Hawthorn Tramways; Melbourne, Brunswick and Coburg Tramways; Fitzroy, Northcote and Preston Tramways; and Footscray Tramways; also the Cable Tramway of the Northcote

Council. The Essendon Electric Tramways were taken over on 1st August, 1922.

The Board is empowered to borrow up to £3,000,000 by the issue of stock or debentures secured upon its revenues and undertakings, this being in addition to the transferred liabilities attaching to the tramways vested in it. Power is given to have an overdraft not exceeding £200,000. The Board has exercised its power to borrow to the extent of £2,150,000.

The Board has prepared a general scheme for the future development of tramways in the metropolis, which has been approved by the Railways Standing Committee. The scheme includes provision for the construction of about 100 single track miles of electric tramway, but, before the Board can actually construct any of such tramways, a "Special construction scheme" dealing with the proposed route must be approved by the Railways Standing Committee and authorized by Parliament. Authority has, however, been given to the Board to construct certain tramways already approved by the Governor in Council or Parliament, without further formality.

The Act provides that the Board shall pay to the Consolidated Revenue each year a sum equivalent to the Government's contributions to the Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital, the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, and certain specified municipalities pursuant to the *Licensing Act* 1916. (The payments under this obligation for the year ended 30th June, 1925, amounted to £106,211). The surplus on the operations of any year, after transferring not less than 4 per cent. nor more than 6 per cent. of the capital cost of the undertaking to Reserve Funds and carrying to the credit of the succeeding year such sum, not exceeding £10,000, as the Board thinks fit, is to be distributed amongst 28 constituent Metropolitan Councils in accordance with a scheme of distribution to be adopted by the Board. Any sum received by a municipality in pursuance of this arrangement is to be applied only to such purposes as the Governor in Council shall approve. No distribution to the Municipalities has been made since 30th June, 1920.

Pursuant to the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act* 1923, municipal councils may require the Board to submit a special construction scheme to the Railways Standing Committee dealing with any route included in the general scheme. In the event of such route being approved by the Committee, and its construction being authorized by Parliament, the Board shall construct the line under a guarantee against loss on operation from the council or councils concerned for a period of five years. The council or councils shall pay each year from the Municipal fund any losses in respect of which a guarantee has been given, and a council may, if not forbidden by the ratepayers, recoup itself by the levy of a "tramway betterment rate" over the whole or a portion of the district served.

The following table contains detailed particulars of the operations of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board for the year 1924-25:—

Tramway.	Miles of Track Open—		Tram Mileage.	Number of Passengers Carried.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling Stock.	Number of Persons Employed.
	Double.	Single.						
Cable—					£	£		
Melbourne	41·076	..	14,826,898	143,354,419	1,149,717	976,168	1,157	3,046
Northcote	4·500	..	459,015	4,961,979	35,334	35,462	30	90
Total Cable	45·576	..	15,285,913	148,316,398	1,185,051	1,011,630	1,187	3,136
Electric—								
Prahran and Malvern ..	35·311	2·204	4,374,247	45,286,503	411,193	337,233	141	1,121
Hawthorn	9·604	3·575	1,430,398	12,835,841	133,755	110,277	52	299
Coburg	5·744	1·770	1,134,870	9,517,388	90,000	87,493	33	296
Preston	2·779	4·046	558,747	3,669,980	36,426	43,077	27	138
Footscray	2·547	1·920	311,369	3,497,270	28,906	24,005	12	66
Essendon	4·745	2·657	616,888	5,628,698	49,767	47,559	41	288
Total Electric	60·730	16·172	8,426,519	80,435,680	750,047	649,644	306	2,208
Grand Total (Tramways)	106·306	16·172	23,712,432	228,752,078	1,935,098*	1,661,274	1,493	5,764†
Motor Omnibuses (from 3/1/25 to 30/6/25)	Route Mileage 7.326		287,683	1,418,456	20,342	17,294	44	81

* Gross revenue amounted to £1,948,266.

† Including 420 persons employed at Head Office, Holden-street, &c.

In addition to traffic receipts (£1,935,098), there was revenue from advertising, rents, &c., of £7,052 from cable tramways and £6,116 from electric tramways, making a gross revenue for the year of £1,948,266.

The gross surplus on the year's operations, including motor omnibuses, was £290,216. Out of this had to be paid interest on loans, rates, &c., leaving available for appropriation an amount of £117,512. As this sum was insufficient to meet the statutory payments to Consolidated Revenue and Tramway Reserves required by Acts of Parliament, the sum of £232,245 had to be transferred from the General Reserve Account to meet the deficit. After this had been done the following appropriations were made:—Consolidated Revenue, £106,211; General Reserve Account, £80,731; Fire Insurance Reserve Account, £4,000; Renewals Reserve Account, £117,269; and Loans Redemption and Sinking Fund Accounts, £41,546.

Up to 30th June, 1925, the capital cost of the tramways vested in the Tramways Board, including stores on hand, amounted to £6,011,898, of which £2,417,868 was expended on cable, £3,518,417 on electric tramways, and £75,613 on motor omnibuses.

In the next statement interesting comparisons are made between the cable, electric and bus systems, the receipts per mile, the cost of working, &c., being shown for the year 1924-25:—

System.	Average Traffic Receipts.			Percentage of Working Expenses to Total Revenue.	Working Expenses per Tram Mile including Power Cost.	Average Distance per Penny.
	Per Tram Mile.	Per Mile of Single Track.	Per Passenger.			
	d.	£	d.		d.	Miles.
Cable ..	18·606	13,000	1·918	84·86	15·883	1·44
Electric ..	21·363	5,461	2·238	85·91	18·503	1·136
Bus*	16·970	1,389	3·442	84·28	14·423	·877

* Based on 6 months' operations only.

**Metropolitan
Tramways
Traffic, last
five years.**

Particulars in relation to the traffic of the metropolitan tramways for each of the last five years are given in the following statement :—

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Financial Year.	Miles of Track Open.		Tram Mileage.	Number of Passengers carried.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling- stock.	Number of Persons employed. *
	Double.	Single.						
					£	£		
1920-21	95·475	17·31	20,333,033	213,872,064	1,648,058	1,246,973	1,358	4,228
1921-22	96·021	21·26	21,208,879	218,450,712	1,857,469	1,406,127	1,402	4,399
1922-23	100·396	17·642	21,584,652	226,631,546	1,911,278	1,427,955	1,397	4,875
1923-24	99·965	17·801	21,984,885	221,892,070	1,870,288	1,566,996	1,433	5,673
1924-25	106·306	16·172	23,712,432	228,752,078	1,935,098	1,661,274	1,493	5,764

* Including employees at Head Office, Holden-street, &c.

**Country
Tramways.**

The towns, other than the metropolis, having tramway systems are :—Ballarat, with 13·85 miles of electric lines (1·42 double and 12·43 single track); Bendigo, with 8·79 miles of electric lines (1·79 double and 7·00 single track); and Geelong, with 7·13 miles of electric lines (2·17 double and 4·96 single track).

The traffic particulars of these lines for each of the last five years are summarized below :—

COUNTRY TRAMWAYS, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Financial Year.	Miles of Track.		Tram Mileage.	Number of Passengers carried.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling- stock.	Number of Persons employed.
	Double.	Single.						
					£	£		
1920-21	3·985	22·878	1,161,714	8,036,269	82,463	58,754	68	189
1921-22	3·995	22·888	1,160,604	8,287,606	86,336	66,169	68	187
1922-23	5·395	23·698	1,190,911	7,957,082	88,355	64,076	68	195
1923-24	5·395	23·698	1,257,187	7,879,005	86,616	74,343	69	214
1924-25	5·380	24·390	1,340,444	8,147,718	84,293	76,043	78	222

LICENSED VEHICLES.

**Licensed
vehicles in
Melbourne.**

The licensing of vehicles plying, kept, or let out for hire within the city of Melbourne or for a distance of 8 miles beyond the city boundaries is controlled by the Melbourne City Council. The appended statement contains details of vehicles and drivers licensed annually during the last five years :—

LICENSED VEHICLES IN MELBOURNE, 1920 TO 1924.

—	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>For Passenger Traffic.</i>					
Cabs, Drags (4 wheel)	472	470	423	391	410
„ (Hansoms)	165	157	135	114	95
Motor Cars	401	480	483	644	882
„ Omnibuses .. ..	..	..	3	19	72
„ Chars-a-bancs	23	37	60	109	331
Total	1,061	1,144	1,104	1,277	1,790
<i>For Conveyance of Goods.</i>					
Drivers licensed	3,151	3,253	3,322	3,257	3,182

**Motor vehicles
licensed.**

The Melbourne City Council issues only one kind of licence for all motor vehicles plying for hire. In the above table motor cars embrace all motor vehicles registered with a seating capacity of under 10 seats. The particulars of all motor vehicles licensed for hire for the period 1st January to 20th November 1925, are as follows :—912 motor vehicles, of which 84 vehicles had a seating capacity of 10 seats and over, and 828 of under 10 seats. Information regarding passenger traffic of motor vehicles is not yet available. It is expected that all the particulars relating to motor omnibuses licensed under Act No. 3378 will be tabulated early in 1925. Under the prescribed regulations owners are required to furnish the statistics at the close of the calendar year.

**Motor vehicle
Registrations.**

The use of motor cars and motor vehicles in Victoria is regulated by the Motor Car Act No. 2702, the Highways and Vehicles Act No. 3379, and the Motor Omnibus Act No. 3378.

Under the provisions of these Acts, every motor car, motor omnibus, and motor cycle must be registered with the Chief Commissioner of Police, and the registration renewed annually. The annual registration fee is calculated on the power-weight unit—the charge ranging

from 3s. per power-weight unit for ordinary motor cars to 3s. 9d. per power-weight unit for motor vehicles used for hire or for carrying goods in the course of trade if fitted with pneumatic tires, or to 5s. per unit if fitted with non-pneumatic tires. The minimum fee for any motor car other than a motor cycle is £3. Motor omnibuses are charged a flat rate of £5, plus additional fees ranging from £1 10s. to £4 10s. per passenger seat, if running on certain defined routes in the Melbourne district.

During the year 1924-25 there were registered 70,041 motor cars, 50 trailers, 205 traction engines, 19,212 motor cycles, 3,108 sidecars, and 150 omnibuses.

No person may drive a motor car or motor cycle upon any public highway without having been licensed. On 30th June, 1925, the number of drivers of motor cars and motor cycles licensed by the Chief Commissioner of Police was 100,021. There were also 169 dealers registered.

The total revenue received by the Police Department during 1924-25 from motor-vehicle registrations, &c., amounted to £414,053, as follows:—Cars, trailers, and traction engines, £371,947; omnibuses, £4,698; motor cycles and sidecars, £12,960; dealers, £845; drivers' and riders' licences, £18,067; and transfers, duplicates, &c., £5,536.

Traffic Accidents.

The Police Department tabulates a return of the accidents known to the police which occurred in the public streets of Victoria for the calendar year 1924. Details are as follows:—

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN VICTORIA, 1924.

Cause of Accident.					Killed.	Injured.
					No.	No.
Vehicles—						
Tram	..	..	..	..	16	307
Train	..	..	..	..	22	19
Motor	..	..	..	..	141	2,802
Bicycle	..	..	..	..	4	92
Other Vehicles (including improper riding, &c.)	..	..	..	..	29	240
Horses	..	..	..	..	12	74
Totals	..	..	..	..	224	3,534
Ages of persons killed or injured—						
Under 10 years	..	..	..	..	19	146
10 to 14 years	..	..	..	..	3	89
Over 14 years	..	..	..	..	202	3,299

Principal Agricultural and Pastoral Features of the various Districts of the State of Victoria, Season 1924-25.

District.	Total Area of District.	Area occupied.	Number of Occupiers.	CULTIVATION.								PASTORAL.					PRODUCE.		
				Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Onions.	Melons for Grain.	Vines.	Orchards Growing Fruit for Sale.	Dairy Cows.	Other Cattle.	Horses.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Butter.	Wool.	Honey.
Central ..	Acres.	Acres.		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	lb.
North Central ..	3,029,920	2,105,551	5,816	16,640	18,845	2,809	11,891	..	10	185	4,312	40,675	54,005	22,078	14,385	1,191,301	5,096,725	10,037,010	199,372
Western ..	8,775,040	6,718,728	13,194	50,247	61,335	10,036	8,087	2,333	..	36	2,229	201,112	176,797	62,814	57,801	4,126,780	27,840,026	37,390,229	630,458
Wimmera ..	7,394,560	5,939,922	6,646	731,480	102,390	5,725	93	3	..	1,625	3,418	22,600	27,964	6,141	4,404	2,136,938	974,007	19,355,001	1,237,850
Mallee ..	10,784,000	5,562,130	8,327	1,192,096	178,415	4,100	7	..	..	31,291	4,219	21,594	21,339	63,906	9,146	668,466	1,809,974	5,411,902	112,570
Northern ..	6,337,280	5,293,842	12,906	645,407	109,729	9,105	26	2	..	3,473	22,731	96,834	111,341	99,542	43,540	1,976,453	12,411,081	15,549,989	841,057
North-Eastern ..	7,320,480	3,924,678	5,781	44,610	18,556	912	1,102	1	2,867	5,766	9,214	70,923	146,102	31,229	28,323	866,584	9,399,128	6,553,530	851,286
Gippsland ..	8,739,200	4,438,386	9,440	11,063	41,58	11,517	8,726	685	19,470	..	1,456	159,472	187,343	41,333	84,843	691,710	25,345,448	4,990,284	121,099
Total for State	56,345,760	36,806,224	80,037	2,705,223	517,229	63,764	61,295	4,504	23,126	42,467	83,369	760,207	845,347	473,236	288,509	12,640,898	95,454,295	106,787,897	4,054,975

Minor Crops of Special Interest:—Acreage: Chicory, 309; Hops, 268; Tobacco, 1,225; Millet (Broom), 531; Sugar Beet, 1,897; Beans, 1,028; these are confined to the Central, North-Eastern, and Gippsland Districts.

TOTALS.

Year.	Average Annual Rainfall.	WHEAT.		WOOL.		LIVE STOCK.	
		Area.	Production.	Area.	Production.	Cattle.	Sheep.
1920	24.71	2,295,865	17.19	90,250,571	1,575,150	12,171,084	
1921	26.63	2,611,198	16.80	103,512,777	1,750,369	12,335,818	
1922	21.73	2,644,314	13.86	102,467,960	1,785,060	11,765,530	
1923	26.12	2,454,117	15.40	82,018,391	1,691,897	11,069,761	
1924	28.05	2,705,223	17.51	106,787,897	1,605,554	12,640,898	

VICTORIA.

Showing

Statistics of Wheat, Wool, Live Stock, and Rainfall in each District for 5 years; and Agricultural and Pastoral Statistics in detail, for the Season 1924-25.

Scale of Miles

Map of South & North Seas

Bass Strait

SOUTHERN OCEAN

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SOUTHERN OCEAN

PRODUCTION.

LAND SETTLEMENT, ETC.

The total area of the State is 56,245,760 acres. This comprises—

	Acres.
Lands alienated in fee simple	25,278,681
Lands in process of alienation	8,468,825
Crown lands	22,498,254
Total	56,245,760

The Crown lands comprise—

Permanent forests (under Forests Act) ..	3,569,233
Timber reserves (under Forests Act) ..	736,355
State forests and Timber reserves (under Land Act)	329,600
Water reserves	313,551
Reserves for Agricultural Colleges, &c. ..	85,590
Reserves in the Mallee	403,258
Other reserves	317,271
Roads	1,794,218
Water frontages, beds of rivers, lakes, &c.; (unsold land in cities, towns, and boroughs)	2,547,790
Land in occupation under—	
Perpetual leases	105,539
Other leases and licences	83,806
Temporary grazing licences	8,093,101
Unoccupied	4,118,942
Total	22,498,254

In the following table are shown the area of Crown lands sold absolutely and conditionally, and the area of lands alienated in fee simple in each year since 1914.

A portion of the area conditionally sold reverts to the Crown each year in consequence of the non-fulfilment of conditions by the selectors. The lands alienated each year include areas selected in previous years.

ALIENATION OF CROWN LANDS, 1915 TO 1924.

Year.	Area of Crown Lands Sold.		Crown Lands alienated in Fee Simple.	
	Absolutely, at Auction, &c.	Conditionally to Selectors.*	Area.	Purchase Money.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	£
1915	3,287	129,232	117,257	113,167
1916	2,061	140,341	89,203	80,238
1917	2,075	89,164	82,042	79,992
1918	1,760	74,514	76,064	78,235
1919	1,166	70,729	102,294	114,654
1920	3,125	102,534	187,228	192,861
1921	1,800	99,519	110,056	100,890
1922	2,658	186,686	106,485	118,698
1923	3,015	200,517	142,940	167,669
1924	3,093	151,875	126,147	167,322

* Exclusive of Mallee selectors.

From the period of the first settlement of the State to the end of 1924 the amount realized by the sale of Crown lands was £34,506,535, which represents an average of £1 0s. 5d. per acre for all lands alienated or in process of alienation. Payment of a considerable portion of this amount extended over a series of years without interest, upon very easy terms.

Amount realized by sale of Crown lands.

Lands
remaining for
disposal.

The next table shows the whole of the unalienated lands of the Crown remaining for disposal:—

**CROWN LANDS REMAINING FOR DISPOSAL ON 31st
DECEMBER, 1924.**

Location.		Classification.					Total.	
		Agricultural and Grazing.						Auri-ferous.
		First.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	Un-classed.		
County.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	
Buln Buln ..	4,677	30,058	78,398				113,133	
Croajingolong ..	2,510	1,756	569,411		837,400	13,850	1,424,927	
Dargo ..			105,258		431,900	72,000	609,158	
Tambo ..			220,397		364,450	900	585,747	
Tanjil ..			110,000		361,650	67,000	538,650	
Wonnangatta ..		39	160,683		942,100		1,102,822	
Bogong ..	1,342	12,846	210,601		158,724	105,015	488,528	
Benambra ..		403	309,058		315,994	90,093	715,548	
Delatite ..	390	18,082	210,399		230,050	61,333	520,254	
Moira ..	546	149	10,833				11,528	
Anglesey ..		3,823	71,357			3,210	78,390	
Bourke ..		162					162	
Dalhousie ..		619	1,639			5,167	7,425	
Evelyn ..		12,649	391			1,315	14,355	
Mornington ..		994	7,378				8,372	
Bendigo ..	80	735	2,595			4,058	7,468	
Rodney ..		254				2,234	2,488	
Borong ..		667	68,645		423	5,667	75,402	
Gladstone ..	302	1,362	1,952			13,770	17,386	
Lowan ..		604	151,470	35,915	10,608		198,597	
Kara Kara ..	24	126	3,606			4,476	8,232	
Talbot ..	50	546	278			42,209	43,083	
Tatchera ..		70					70	
Heytesbury ..		1,176	166,084				167,260	
Polwarth ..	17,067	16,913	23,518				62,498	
Grant ..		155	25,192			14,134	39,481	
Grenville ..	99	371				11,279	11,749	
Ripon ..		380	24,133			4,167	28,680	
Normanby ..		267	122,406	5,765	8,810		137,248	
Dundas ..			44,567	8,571	15,754		68,892	
Villiers ..			1,713				1,713	
Follett ..		1,252	166,555		39,809		207,616	
Total ..	27,087	103,458	2,873,517	50,251	3,717,672	521,877	7,296,862	
Throughout the State	Swamp or reclaimed lands						1,688	
" ..	Lands which may be sold by auction						7,615	
The north-western portion of the State	Mallee lands (such as are suitable to be eventually classed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd class for selection)						4,894,408	
The south-western portion of the State	Portland Heath (special area, awaiting fresh legislation)						11,470	
Total area remaining for disposal							12,212,043	

Much of the land included in the above statement is temporarily leased under grazing licences.

Pastoral occupation of Crown lands. The particulars of Crown lands for which licences had been issued for pastoral occupation on 31st December, 1924, are as follows :—

Number of Licences	5,823
Area (acres)	8,093,101
Annual Rental	£28,478

Persons who may select land. Any person of the age of 18 years or upwards is eligible to apply to select under the Land Acts a prescribed area varying according to the classification of the land—less the area of previous selections.

Concessions to land seekers. The Lands Inquiry Branch gives information to intending applicants and issues concession warrants for half fares on Victorian Railways to persons travelling to make inspection or take possession of land.

Area that may be selected. An applicant may select in the Mallee, under Selection Purchase Lease, 640 acres of first class, 1,000 acres of second class, 1,280 acres of third class, or 1,600 acres of fourth class land, or 4,000 acres of land classed 4A; and, in addition, may acquire privately an area equivalent to that which he selects from the Crown.

Grazing licences Grazing licences are renewable annually, and are only granted for waste lands of the Crown until required under the principal sections of the Act.

Land Laws. A conspectus of the provisions of the Victorian Land Acts appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17 and previous issues.

Transfer of Land Act. The “Torrens System,” whereby persons acquiring possession of land may receive a clear title, was introduced into Victoria in 1862. The system has been the means of simplifying procedure in connexion with the transferring of land. It gives a title to the transferee free of any latent defect and reduces the cost of dealing in real estate by reason of the simplicity of the procedure. All land parted with by the Crown since 1862 is under the operation of the Transfer of Land Act, and the Crown grant issues through the Titles Office; but, to bring under the Act land that was parted with prior to that year, application must be made accompanied by strict proofs of the applicant’s interest in the property. During 1924 there were submitted 598 applications to have brought under the Act land amounting to 21,268 acres in extent and to £1,017,208 in value; whilst the land actually brought under the Act during the year by application was 6,366 acres valued at £615,581. Up to the end of 1924 there had been brought under the Act 3,103,992 acres valued at £64,215,326.

**Assurance
Fund.**

When application is made to have land brought under the Transfer of Land Act, a contribution to the assurance fund of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the £1 on the value of the land is levied on the applicant to assure and indemnify the Government in granting a clear title against all the world, as some other person may have a latent interest in the property, and it may be necessary for the Government to recompense such person out of the fund for the loss of his interest. Receipts during 1924-25 comprised contributions £2,838, interest on stock £2,845, and interest on £75,073—advanced under *The Protection of Public Buildings Act 1885*—£3,003. During the year no payment was made out of the fund in settlement of claims, but £5,346 was paid as interest on securities under the *Special Funds Act 1920*, No. 3067, and £53,681 for the purchase of securities. The balance at the credit of the assurance fund on 30th June, 1925, was £157,648. The amount paid up to 30th June, 1925, as compensation and for judgments recovered, including costs, was £7,953.

CLOSER SETTLEMENT.**Closer
Settlement.**

Under the provisions of the Closer Settlement Act the Closer Settlement Board is empowered to expend at the rate of £500,000 per annum in the purchase—either by voluntary or compulsory acquisition—of lands (whether privately owned or held under lease from the Crown) for subdivision into suitable allotments according to the class of the land, and for disposal by the Board to eligible applicants, as stated hereafter. Lands well adapted for settlement are thus made available in those portions of the State in which railways, water supply and markets are provided, and in which roads and other facilities are good. The areas purchased comprise ordinary farming lands in a more or less improved condition, and lands in irrigated districts with plentiful supplies of water for irrigation.

Every application for a Closer Settlement allotment must be accompanied by the registration fee of 5s., a lease fee of £1, and a deposit (equal to 3 per cent. of the capital value of the land) which is deducted from the purchase money. The applicant is required to give evidence of suitability and fitness, &c., to occupy the land. If successful, a permit giving immediate possession is issued (followed by a lease as soon as practicable), and no further payment is required for six months. If the application be refused, the amount forwarded as a deposit in respect of the purchase money and the lease fee are returned to the unsuccessful applicant, but the registration fee is retained. Only one allotment of the maximum value can be granted to any one person, and the principle of residence for eight months in each year is a condition of the lease.

In addition to the provisions for the purchase of large estates for subdivision, the Closer Settlement Act provides that any one or more persons, who are eligible to acquire a farm allotment under the Closer

Settlement Act, may enter into a provisional agreement with the owner of a block of private land for the purchase thereof, and acquire it through the Closer Settlement Board—*vide* section 20, Act 2629. The value of the land must not exceed the maximum allowed under the Act. An application on the proper form must be filled in, and the agreement with full details and the application must be lodged with the Board, together with a valuation fee of £4. Where the agreement is submitted on behalf of more than one applicant, an additional fee of £2 must be lodged in respect of each additional applicant. The fee may be returned if, after a preliminary inspection, the Board does not approve of the application. Should the Board decide to acquire the land, the purchaser is required to deposit an amount not exceeding four half-yearly instalments, and is otherwise subject to all the provisions of the Closer Settlement Act with regard to payments, residence, improvements, &c.

Repurchased lands are disposed of as farm allotments, agricultural labourers' allotments, and workmen's home allotments under conditional purchase lease. The principal terms of these leases, as regards farm allotments, are briefly stated herein. They are given in detail in each title as issued.

Conditional purchase leases are granted to successful applicants under the Closer Settlement Act, and are for such a term not exceeding $36\frac{1}{2}$ years as may be agreed upon between the lessee and the Board. The purchase money is payable by 73 or a less number of half-yearly instalments. In some cases the Board has granted applications for extension of payments under a lease to $46\frac{1}{2}$ years, the payments being by 93 half-yearly instalments. The deposit lodged with the application is credited as part of the principal, and the balance bears interest at 5 per cent. Each instalment includes interest upon the balance of purchase money remaining unpaid, and is 3 per cent. half-yearly (6 per cent. per annum) of the capital value of the allotment (less the amount of the deposit). Payments in advance may be made at any time, at the option of the lessee, and a proportionate reduction of interest secured thereby.

In special cases, when a lessee is unable to meet the instalments of purchase money as they fall due, the Board has power to suspend such payments up to an amount not exceeding 60 per cent. of the value of the improvements effected by him. Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum is charged on the amount in arrear or on any instalments which may have been suspended.

The lessee must reside on the allotment for eight months during each year. Personal residence by the lessee's wife, or child over 18 years of age, or parent dependent for support, may, with the approval of the Board, be considered personal residence by the lessee. A farm lessee cannot transfer, assign, mortgage, or sublet the whole or any part of his allotment within the first three years of the lease. The Crown grant may be issued to the lessee at the end of any half-year

after the first twelve years have expired, on payment of the balance of purchase money. The residence condition is not carried into the Crown grant.

Farm allotments. Lands for farm allotments are subdivided into suitable areas, of which none must exceed in value £2,500 except in the case of blocks mainly consisting of grazing land, when the value may be increased to £3,500; and no lease of any of these areas can be granted to a person who at the date of application is directly or indirectly the owner of any other land in Victoria (township land excepted) the value of which, together with that of the allotment applied for, exceeds the amount stated. Improvements of a permanent and substantial character must be effected by the lessee of a farm allotment to the value of at least two instalments of the purchase money before the end of the first year from the date of the lease, 10 per cent. of the purchase money before the end of the third year, and a further 10 per cent. before the end of the sixth year. Improvements must thus be made to the value of at least 20 per cent. of the total purchase money payable for the allotment. If an approved deputy is fulfilling the residential condition, the value of the improvements must be at least 30 per cent. of the total purchase money. If they are made in excess of requirements during the first three years, the excess is set off against the expenditure necessary by the end of the sixth year. Where special circumstances warrant action, the Minister, upon the recommendation of the Board, may modify the improvement conditions.

Advances to settlers.

The Closer Settlement Act provides for advances by the Closer Settlement Board to settlers who are—

- (a) Lessees under the *Closer Settlement Act* 1915.
- (b) Licensees of an agricultural or grazing allotment under the *Land Act* 1915.
- (c) Licensees under section 86 of the *Land Act* 1915 or corresponding sections of any repealed Act.
- (d) Conditional purchase lessees under the *Land Act* 1915; or
- (e) Conditional purchase lessees under the Murray Settlements Act, now Section 245, *Land Act* 1915.
- (f) Selection purchase lessees under Sections 46 and 50, *Land Act* 1915, during the first six years of the term of the leases.
- (g) Perpetual lessees under Section 54, *Land Act* 1915.

Advances of money to assist in effecting improvements may be granted by the Board up to 80 per cent. of the value of the permanent improvements effected, such advances to be repaid by half-yearly instalments extending over twenty years, bearing interest at 5 per cent. Advances to acquire stock and for the purchase of seed, manure, and implements can also be made. The total advances for all purposes must not exceed £625.

Advances not exceeding £250 may be made to persons holding approved share-farming or leasing agreements, for the purchase of stock and implements, and for such other purposes as the Board thinks fit, to enable them to carry out the share-farming or leasing agreement.

The period for repaying the advances on improvements is usually limited to twenty years, and for live stock, seed, manure, and implements, to three years, interest at 5 per cent. per annum being charged on the unpaid balance of the amount advanced.

Group Settlement in Mountainous Areas. Land may be acquired by the Board in mountainous areas for disposal to any group of settlers (not being less than five), and provision is made for freedom from payment of instalments for any period not exceeding ten years, subject to certain improvement conditions. Special provision is also made to enable the Board to provide road access to such areas. Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the free period fixed by the Minister of Lands will be added to the capital value of the allotment, and will be repaid as part of the instalments of purchase money.

The Board may authorize an advance to be made for the purpose of clearing and improving the land, and may make progress payments to the lessee as the work for which the advance is intended progresses.

The Board will also assist in the erection of the dwelling-house and out-buildings required for the allotment. Advances made by the Board for this purpose are repayable on the same terms as those made to assist in effecting improvements which are referred to above.

Wire netting advances. Advances of wire netting may also be made under the Closer Settlement Acts to owners of land—

- (a) if such land is held under conditions set forth in the Closer Settlement Acts; or
- (b) if such land immediately adjoins any unoccupied Crown land or is not included in any municipality.

The wire netting supplied is No. 17 gauge, 1½-in. mesh, 42 inches wide, and is supplied in rolls of not less than 100 yards. Each advance is limited to a quantity sufficient for 6 miles of vermin-proof fencing, and the price of the wire netting is deemed to be the amount of the advance, which is repayable by a cash payment or on terms over a period not exceeding ten years, with interest at 4 per cent. per annum.

Alteration of Balancing Date.

As the balancing date of the Closer Settlement Board has been altered from 30th June to 31st December, particulars relating to Closer Settlement and Discharged Soldiers Settlement at 30th June, 1925, are not available. In the next issue of this work particulars up to 31st December, 1925, will be published.

Estates purchased.

Apart from the estates purchased for discharged soldiers' settlement (*vide* page 485) the following is a complete statement of all estates acquired by the Closer Settlement Board for the purpose of closer settlement at 30th June, 1924, including

those purchased by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, i.e., estates in irrigable areas :—

CLOSER SETTLEMENT ESTATES AT 30TH JUNE, 1924.

Estates.	Area.	Estates.		No. of Lessees.			Areas available for Allotment.
		Purchase Money, including Discount on Stock or Debentures	Total Cost to Date.	Farm Allotments.	Workmen's Home Allotments.	Agricultural Labourers' Allotments.	
Dry Areas.	acres.	£	£				acres.
Farms—							
Allambee ..	5,025	31,794	35,107	24	..	..	1,083
Allendale ..	1,108	9,728	9,750	7	..	..	..
Balure ..	183	1,463	1,494	..	..	10	..
Bamawm ..	168	1,391	1,390	..	..	..	..
Bellarine ..	204	5,457	7,009	6	..	..	65
Belmont ..	113	3,161	5,766	..	..	17	..
Boisdale ..	2,521	72,174	74,763	42	..	..	..
Bona Vista ..	2,060	28,832	33,580	23	..	4	..
Boorool... ..	2,221	45,810	46,012	4	..	..	1,635
Chester ..	1,069	12,024	12,024	4	..	..	..
Cohuna ..	223	2,215	2,238	2	..	..	..
Colbinabbin ..	19,163	110,198	114,754	87	..	..	..
Condah ..	157	1,725	1,725	..	..	..	..
Cornelia Creek ..	29,567	121,034	125,444	76	..	..	..
Cremona ..	1,292	20,140	21,923	1	..	1	..
Crystal Waters ..	1,036	8,159	8,196	..	..	..	1,036
Daylesford ..	70	2,957	5,312	14	..	..	..
Deepline ..	2,964	35,742	36,711	13	..	..	..
Doogalook ..	4,640	29,002	29,753	16	..	..	..
Dunrobin ..	18,814	119,779	123,372	56	..	23	..
Dura ..	331	3,200	3,258	7	..	..	..
Edeyrn ..	1,991	10,455	10,501	..	..	..	2,015
Englefield ..	11,242	33,302	33,564	4	..	..	4,709
Ercildoune ..	1,190	12,199	12,214	7	..	..	..
Eumeralla ..	10,034	57,570	61,045	34	..	6	..
Eurack ..	5,109	53,640	57,216	45	..	..	..
Exford ..	8,005	64,039	67,584	43	..	6	..
Gellion's ..	530	21,575	21,660	6	..	..	..
Glenaladale ..	2,110	28,787	29,464	16	..	..	..
Glendinning and Melville Forest..	43,800	153,453	154,576	38	..	..	6,516
Greenvale ..	304	7,298	7,335	4	..	..	..
Heart ..	3,793	56,322	58,567	38	..	..	..
Highton ..	424	11,032	15,467	18	..	..	..
Hogan's ..	444	6,197	6,345	9	..	..	..
Hurstwood ..	6,493	31,311	31,573	14	..	..	..
Inverary ..	1,258	7,548	7,647	26	..	..	..
Keayang ..	1,497	14,966	16,389	12	..	..	..
Kenilworth ..	18,440	55,321	56,286	29	..	12	..
Kilmany Park ..	8,746	106,080	108,496	70	..	..	..
Kongbool ..	32,018	111,148	111,867	28	..	..	1,893
Konongwotong ..	10,180	104,363	106,657	62	..	15	..
Koyuga ..	790	3,914	3,914	2	..	..	..
Laidlaw's ..	1,047	7,325	7,373	3	..	..	..
Lara ..	8,332	45,825	48,082	32	..	7	..
Leslie Manor ..	18,005	121,085	121,813	31	..	..	3,207
Mackey ..	1,078	20,626	20,635	..	..	..	..
Marathon and Willow-grove ..	14,782	58,752	60,550	26	..	..	..
Maribyrnong ..	1,112	10,842	11,068	12	..	2	..
Meadowbank ..	313	9,085	9,608	4	..	..	..
Memie ..	10,027	57,159	57,525	45	..	..	..
Moralla ..	17,199	60,197	63,036	26	..	..	..
Mordialloc ..	460	7,850	13,303	31	..	..	..
Morven ..	8,029	39,533	39,944	20	..	..	..
Mount Widdierin ..	8,333	48,634	49,878	11	..	..	..
Moyhu ..	2,417	19,581	20,337	22	..	..	..

CLOSER SETTLEMENT ESTATES AT 30TH JUNE, 1924—continued.

Estates.	Area.	Estates.		No. of Lessees.			Areas available for Allotment.
		Purchase Money, including Discount on Stock or Debentures	Total Cost to Date.	Farm Allotments.	Workmen's Home Allotments.	Agricultural Labourers' Allotments.	
Dry Areas—continued.	acres.	£	£				acres.
Farms—continued.							
Mundara ..	1,915	16,516	16,589	..	..	..	1,915
Nanneella ..	738	7,767	7,842	6	..	13	..
Narnbool ..	9,198	60,873	61,323	4	..	..	3,295
Nathalia ..	30	361	388	..	..	5	..
Nerrin Nerrin ..	7,740	67,915	69,242	28	..	1	..
Numurkah ..	2,363	13,901	19,004	12	..	..	..
Oaklands ..	8,050	26,309	26,749	10	..	..	..
Overnewton ..	11,485	71,492	73,340	67	..	..	..
Pannoo ..	15,101	98,455	100,609	41	..	..	..
Pirron Yallock ..	1,059	23,796	25,103	21	..	..	..
Restdown ..	17,894	60,391	61,409	52	..	..	..
Richmond Vale ..	1,539	11,000	11,137	10	..	1	..
Romsey ..	285	8,834	8,935	14	..	..	115
Section 20 ..	54,879	386,507	389,426	250	..	2	..
Shepparton (Ascot Park) ..	488	3,671	3,671	..	..	..	..
Springs ..	398	2,290	2,318	8	..	..	..
Springvale ..	3,396	25,895	26,318	22	..	..	..
Squatlescamere ..	8,217	54,436	54,676	12	..	..	4,424
Staughton Vale ..	9,847	66,466	68,023	41	..	..	..
Stoneyhurst ..	1,886	33,030	33,261	..	..	..	1,868
Strathkellar ..	10,228	74,150	76,458	60	..	2	..
Tandarra ..	4,558	21,083	21,240	19	..	..	..
Thomastown ..	581	11,230	15,783	26	..	1	..
Tipperary Park ..	657	4,764	4,785	..	..	..	657
Walmer ..	13,769	44,751	46,827	41	..	2	..
Wando Vale ..	10,446	63,985	66,840	67	..	..	..
Wangaratta ..	794	9,659	15,530	29	..	..	..
Warragul ..	98	2,060	3,295	7	..	1	..
Waubra ..	46	1,042	1,164	10	..	3	..
Wein Wein Gurrk ..	3,021	8,684	8,964	13	..	..	..
Werneth ..	6,585	31,043	31,778	21	..	..	..
Werribee ..	15,218	148,802	164,332	35	..	..	..
Whitfield ..	4,247	36,096	38,366	34	..	1	..
Willows ..	380	5,131	5,165	3	..	..	..
Woolongoon ..	14,320	100,405	101,003	23	..	..	2,276
Wootong Vale ..	11,560	57,500	57,851	18	..	..	..
Wyuna ..	23,024	120,876	124,640	114	..	10	..
Land purchased for Discharged Soldiers, but granted to civilians under Closer Settlement Acts ..	62,685	451,787	451,975	241	..	..	..
Land disposed of under Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Acts ..	..	..	..	137	..	..	..
Purchases for Immigration ..	5,920	103,056	103,236	5	..	..	4,822
	697,136	4,464,008	4,599,700	2,651	..	146	41,532
Crown Lands (Farms)—							
Inverloch ..	220	693	693	1	..	..	..
Leongatha ..	53	1,325	1,325	3	..	..	..
Mortlake ..	2,350	10,945	10,945	10	..	17	..
Newtown ..	157	1,955	3,496	4	..	..	..
	2,780	14,918	16,459	18	..	17	..

CLOSER SETTLEMENT ESTATES AT 30TH JUNE, 1924—continued.

Estates.	Area.	Estates.		No. of Lessees.			Areas available for Allotment.
		Purchase Money, including Discount on Stock or Debentures	Total Cost to Date.	Farm Allotments.	Workmen's Home Allotments.	Agricultural Labourers' Allotments.	
Dry Areas—continued.	acres.	£	£				acres.
Workmen's Homes—							
Brunswick ..	91	2,792	3,349	..	56	..	..
Cadman's ..	18	844	1,627	..	42	..	..
Dal Campbell ..	45	2,358	3,458	..	63	..	..
Footscray ..	31	2,494	3,794	..	85	..	..
Glenhuntly ..	74	7,040	12,049	..	158	..	..
Pender's Grove ..	233	23,337	33,243	..	259	..	..
Phoenix ..	23	968	2,338	..	47	..	..
Tooronga ..	101	17,675	27,601	..	210	..	..
Thornbury ..	11	5,625	7,086	..	47	..	..
	627	63,133	94,545	..	967	..	..
Crown Lands (Workmen's Homes)—							
Dowling Forest ..	225	1,350	1,376	..	15	..	..
Geelong ..	3	300	2,347	..	10	..	..
Maddingley ..	13	1,300	1,300	..	13	..	..
Warrnambool ..	46	1,188	1,188	..	25	..	..
Werribee Police Paddock ..	57	1,680	1,701	..	16	..	..
	344	5,818	7,912	..	79	..	..
Irrigable Areas.							
Farms—							
Bamawm ..	13,362	122,944	134,823	141	..	11	..
Berrys' ..	343	3,426	3,450	10	..	..	..
Cohuna ..	11,543	114,856	121,062	103	..	6	710
Cornelia Creek ..	2,507	16,501	19,823	7	..	..	194
Dingee ..	470	4,160	4,617	5	..	8	..
Echuca ..	3,235	29,142	31,471	26	..	..	..
Koondrook ..	3,422	23,202	23,964	32	..	..	..
Koyuga ..	4,173	36,228	40,492	36	..	14	6
Kyabram ..	3,049	36,091	38,508	18	..	7	115
Nanneella ..	8,565	78,654	84,105	87	..	2	30
Nyah ..	35	120	605	2	..	..	..
Section 20 ..	829	12,719	12,768	10	..	..	..
Shepparton ..	9,242	136,839	152,979	190	..	40	..
Stanhope ..	20,889	228,630	233,270	67	..	11	1,219
Swan Hill ..	6,878	71,817	82,363	123	..	1	..
Tongala ..	15,228	172,395	190,382	153	..	21	146
Werribee ..	7,906	153,871	166,016	104	..	20	434
Land purchased for Discharged Soldiers, but granted to civilians under Closer Settlement Acts ..	8,592	108,748	108,873	215	..	..	..
Land disposed of under Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts ..	..	..	..	450	..	..	..
Purchases for Immigration ..	30,598†	476,461	477,332	73	..	..	2,072
	150,956	1,826,804	1,926,903	1,852	..	141	4,926
Crown Lands—							
Swan Hill No. 3 ..	655‡	2,450	2,528	..	..	..	..
Grand Total ..	852,498	6,377,131	6,648,047	4,521	1,046	304	46,458

† Partly subdivided.

‡ Included in Swan Hill Estate.

NOTE.—The total cost to date of estates comprises the following items :—Purchase money, expenses prior to disposal, public works, and interest capitalized.

Up to 30th June, 1924, the Board had acquired 164 properties, with a total area of 852,489 acres, of which 46,458 acres were then available for allotment. Of the estates acquired, an area of 16,959 acres had been used at the date mentioned for settlement of migrants from overseas. Portions of estates, amounting in the aggregate to 48,811 acres, have been sold by public competition and for public reserves without any restrictions, and are not under conditional purchase lease.

Up to the end of June, 1924, 587 allotments, containing 53,835 acres, had been sold to discharged soldiers and transferred to the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act.

The extent of the settlement effected by the Board up to 30th June, 1924, is given in the next statement.

SUMMARY OF CLOSER SETTLEMENT TO 30TH JUNE, 1924.

Classification of Holdings.	Number.	Average Capital Value.	Average Area.	Total Area.
	No.	£	Acres.	Acres.
Areas settled—				
Farms	3,934	1,224	170	670,081
Agricultural Labourers' Allotments ..	304	136	12	3,675
Workmen's Homes Allotments ..	1,046	90	$\frac{3}{4}$	784
Allotments granted to Discharged Soldiers, and transferred to Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts ..	587	958	92	53,835
Public Competition, Auction, &c. ..	..	..	..	48,811
Total area of land settled .. .. .	..	..	..	777,186
Area of land available for—				
Farm Lands and Agricultural Labourers' Allotments ..	..	..	..	46,458
Public Competition, Auction, &c. ..	..	..	..	1,089
Area of land acquired but not yet available ..	..	..	..	22,749
Loss of area on subdivision (roads, channels, reserves, &c.) ..	..	..	..	5,016
Total land acquired to 30th June, 1924 ..	..	..	..	852,498

The next table shows the extent of operations with regard to Farm Allotments up to 30th June, 1920, and progressive totals for each of the following years:—

FARM ALLOTMENTS—EXTENT OF OPERATIONS TO THE YEARS 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June.	Number.	Total Area.	Average Area.	Total Capital Value.	Average Capital Value.
		Acres.	Acres.	£	£
1920	3,060	471,239	154	3,418,020	1,117
1921	3,090	470,967	152 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,429,900	1,110
1922	3,168	478,683	151	3,481,632	1,099
1923	3,403	525,434	151	3,828,375	1,125
1924	3,934	670,081	170	4,815,216	1,224

The sum of £5,193,488 had been repaid to the Closer Settlement Fund up to 30th June, 1924. Of that amount £2,390,673 had been transferred to revenue to meet interest due to stockholders, £90,000 had been invested to replace amounts written off estates re-valued, £100,000 had been placed in securities under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts, and £2,518,716 had been utilized for redemption and cancellation of stock and for capital and working expenditure, the balance to the credit of the fund on 30th June, 1924, being £94,099. The balance of unredeemed securities is now £5,216,390, on which the interest payable amounts to £217,567 per annum. Up to 30th June, 1924, 13,663 applications for advances aggregating £1,394,934 had been approved, and that amount had been advanced to effect improvements, or upon improvements already effected by lessees.

Discharged Soldiers Settlement. By Acts 2916 of 1917, 2988 of 1918, 3039 of 1919, 3061 of 1920, 3130 of 1921, and 3253 of 1922, provision was made for the settlement of discharged soldiers on the land and for other matters. The operation of these acts is under the control of the Closer Settlement Board, with the limitation that the closer settlement areas under irrigation conditions, and situated within an Irrigation and Water Supply District within the meaning of the *Water Act* 1915, are managed by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission.

Up to 30th June, 1924, the Closer Settlement Board and the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission had specially purchased for the settlement of soldiers 1,744,111 acres at a cost of £13,214,902. The number of soldiers settled up to that date was as follows:—

On land specially purchased by the Closer Settlement Board	6,282
On land specially purchased by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	1,410
On Closer Settlement old estates—Dry areas	36
On Closer Settlement old estates—Irrigable areas	567
On Crown Lands—Ordinary and Mallee Areas	1,270
On Crown Lands—Merbein and Nyah Irrigation Areas	186
Soldiers receiving assistance from the Closer Settlement Board, on share farming, leasing agreements and freehold land	814
Total	10,565

In addition to the above there were available or in process of being made available 18 allotments, of which 1 was on land specially purchased by the Closer Settlement Board, and 17 were on Crown land. There were also 952 blocks available under ordinary Closer Settlement conditions, for which returned soldiers could apply.

Up to the end of June, 1924, the amount of assistance rendered by the Board to soldier settlers by way of advances was £6,223,942.

WATERWORKS.

All Victorian waterworks are controlled by official bodies, either State or local. The following table, particulars of which were obtained chiefly from the Twentieth Annual Report of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, summarizes those waterworks on which the Government has expended or advanced moneys, and includes practically all waterworks in the State other than minor works constructed by municipalities out of municipal funds:—

WATERWORKS—CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND ADVANCES
BY STATE TO 30TH JUNE, 1925.

Controlling Bodies.	Purposes of Supply.	Storage Capacity of Reservoirs. *	Capital Expenditure and Advances by State.
		Acre feet.	£
State Rivers and Water Supply Commission—			
Coliban System ..	Domestic and Mining	42,870	1,327,295
Broken River Works ..	Stock and Domestic	..	14,853
Goulburn-Waranga ..	Irrigation, &c. ..	354,100	2,138,937
Sugarloaf Reservoir (under construction) ..	" " ..	306,000	1,128,618
Kow Swamp Works ..	" " ..	40,860	187,566
Loddon River Works ..	" " ..	14,000	167,636
North-west (Kerang) Lakes	" " ..	88,500	21,484
Long Lake Pumping Works ..	Stock and Domestic	3,820	27,346
Lake Lonsdale Reservoir	" " ..	45,480	49,054
Lower Wimmera Compensation Works ..	" " ..	2,870	8,558
Wimmera Storages ..	" " ..	159,200	307,803
Maffra Scheme (including Glenmaggie Reservoir)	Irrigation, &c. ..	150,000	589,761
Bacchus Marsh and Werribee Scheme ..	" " ..	31,850	168,648
Red Cliffs Scheme ..	" " ..	..	658,684
Irrigation and Water Supply Districts (distributory works) ..	" " ..	..	2,612,753
Millewa Waterworks Scheme ..	Stock and Domestic	..	179,417
Waterworks Districts (distributory works) ..	" " ..	36,060†	2,241,123
Flood Protection Districts	.. ..	..	297,799
Miscellaneous Expenditure (Surveys, &c.) ..	.. ..	..	190,632
Cost of Loan Flotation ..	.. ..	..	168,691
Carried forward	.. ..	1,275,610	12,486,658

WATERWORKS—CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND ADVANCES BY STATE TO
30TH JUNE, 1925—*continued*.

Controlling Bodies.	Purposes of Supply.	Storage Capacity of Reservoirs. *	Capital Expenditure and Advances by State.
		Acre feet.	£
Brought forward ..	.. .. .	1,275,610	12,486,658
River Murray Agreement Works (Commission the constructing authority) ..	Irrigation, &c. ..	550,000	1,027,720
Total State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	.. .. .	1,825,610	13,514,378
First Mildura Irrigation and Water Supply Trust ..	Irrigation, &c. ..	..	117,681
Abolished Irrigation and Water Supply Trusts (8)	" " ..	..	32,754
Waterworks Trusts ..	Stock and Domestic	4,330	1,591,425
Municipal Corporations ..	" "	11,420	761,959
Free Grants to Local Authorities ..	.. .. .	..	147,046
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works ..	Domestic ..	23,730	6,503,800
Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust ..	" " ..	9,930	664,448
Total ..	.. .. .	1,875,020	23,333,491

* Total capacity of Storages, when works in hand are completed.

† Includes miscellaneous Storages, the expenditure on which has been debited to the districts concerned.

NOTE.—One acre foot of water equals 43,560 cubic feet, or 272,250 gallons.

Of the expenditure given in the case of the Melbourne waterworks, £3,189,934 represents money borrowed by the State, all of which had been redeemed at 30th June, 1924—£800,000 out of consolidated revenue, and £2,389,934 by payments from the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, to which body the waterworks were transferred in 1891. Further particulars relating to this Board will be found on page 247, Part V., of this volume.

The Geelong Waterworks were sold by the Government to the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust in 1908 for £265,000. The expenditure shown in the above table includes, in addition to this amount, the outstanding State loan liability on account of the works, viz., £155,577, and the capital expenditure by the Trust since acquiring the works, viz., £243,871.

The next table summarizes the amounts disbursed on State works and those granted and lent to local bodies by the State on account of waterworks. In addition to their receiving free grants large sums have been written off the liabilities of the local bodies.

STATE EXPENDITURE AND ADVANCES ON WATERWORKS TO 30TH JUNE, 1925.

	Expenditure and Advances by State.	Capital Written Off.	Payments towards Redemption.	Free Head-works and Advances.	Amount standing at Debit, 30th June, 1925.
	£	£	£	£	£
State Rivers and Water Supply Commission—					
Free Headworks	1,214,741	..	420	1,214,321	..
Other Main Supply Works (including Coliban)	5,760,919	..	90	..	5,760,829
Irrigation and Water Supply Districts	2,612,753	575,152	20,679	..	2,016,922
Waterworks Districts	2,241,123	175,055	45,113	..	2,020,955
Flood Protection Districts	297,799	..	..	..	297,799
Miscellaneous Expenditure (Surveys, &c.)	190,632	..	..	..	190,632
Cost of Loan Flotation	168,691	..	..	36,091	132,600
	12,486,658	750,207	66,302	1,250,412	10,419,737
River Murray Agreement Works ..	1,027,720	..	..	..	1,027,720
Total State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	13,514,378	750,207	66,302	1,250,412	11,447,457
First Mildura Irrigation and Water Supply Trust	117,681	..	7,712	..	109,969
Abolished Irrigation and Water Supply Trusts (8)	32,754	32,724	30	..	..
Waterworks Trusts	1,591,425*	316,537	230,304	..	1,044,584
Municipal Corporations	761,959†	163,760	118,755	..	479,444
Free Grants to Local Authorities ..	147,046	..	..	147,046	..
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works	3,189,934	..	3,189,934	..	..
Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust	455,812	..	300,235	..	155,577
Total	19,810,989	1,263,228	3,913,272	1,397,458	13,237,031

* Amount includes £6,871 representing Interest Capitalized.

† " " £43,979 " " "

In addition to the capital written off, as shown above, arrears of interest amounting to £579,786 have been written off certain liabilities to the State, viz., £342,773 from the liabilities of what were originally Irrigation and Water Supply Trusts, £85,556 from the liabilities of Waterworks Trusts, and £151,457 from the liabilities of Municipal Corporations. Thus the amount which has actually been written off the liabilities of the Trusts (Irrigation and Waterworks) and Corporations is £1,843,014. Interest outstanding at 30th June, 1925, amounted to £27,033, viz., £9,159 against the First Mildura Trust, £14,545 against Waterworks Trusts, and £3,329 against Municipal Corporations.

IRRIGATION.

**Progress of
Irrigation.**

Prior to 1905 the management of irrigation in Victoria was in the hands of various Irrigation Trusts, which were financed by the State. These Trusts drifted into financial difficulties and the State was compelled to assume control.

In the year mentioned, by the authority of Parliament, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission was constituted and intrusted with the management of all irrigation works, except those controlled by the First Mildura Trust. This authority is embodied in the *Water Act* 1915—which consolidates the *Water Acts* of 1905 and 1909, of which epitomes have been given in previous issues of this work—and the *Water Acts* 1916 and 1918. The chief difficulties under which the Irrigation Trusts laboured were sparse settlement, and the absence of powers to make compulsory charges on the properties commanded by the irrigation channels. Since the assumption of control by the Commission a policy of closer settlement on the lands served by the irrigation channels has been inaugurated and vigorously pushed on, and a system of compulsory rating enforced, along with which there has been the allotment of water as a right to properties in channelled areas.

An illustration of the influence of closer settlement and the allotment of water rights in extending irrigation is contained in the following table, which shows, for the districts having water rights, most of which

are directly affected by the Commission's Closer Settlement policy, the areas irrigated in 1909-10—the year in which these two factors were first put into operation—and the average areas for the last five years :—

PROGRESS OF IRRIGATION IN CLOSER SETTLEMENT AREAS.

District (having allotted Water Rights).	Area Irrigated.	
	1909-10.	Average for last Five Years.
	Acres.	Acres.
Supplied from the Goulburn—		
Shepparton .. ..	..	13,811
Rodney	32,356	46,038
Stanhope	2,000	8,652
Tongala	3,000	12,390
Rochester	500	26,223
Echuca North (three years) ..	..	2,167
Dingee .. ..	..	3,195
Tragowel Plains	20,000	35,866
Supplied from the Murray—		
Cohuna	12,000	17,728
Gannawarra	7,825	19,748
Koondrook	5,029	14,262
Swan Hill	5,410	12,626
Nyah	569	2,613
Merbein	202	7,543
Tresco (three years) ..	..	2,102
Mystic Park (two years) ..	..	1,706
Supplied from the Werribee—		
Bacchus Marsh	31	2,479
Werribee .. ..	..	5,313
Total	88,922	234,462.

The area under irrigated culture in the whole State, in 1924-25, for all kinds of crop, was 375,503 acres, the largest yet recorded, being an increase of 50,945 acres over the area irrigated in the previous year, and 64,072 acres above the average of the previous four years.

Total area irrigated.

The subjoined table shows the total extent of irrigated land in the State in 1909-10 and each of the last five years, and the purposes for which the land was utilized :—

IRRIGATED AREAS : HOW UTILIZED.

Crop.	1909-10.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
Cereals	23,715	26,546	25,039	60,304	32,240	45,215
Lucerne	24,124	72,338	82,226	92,679	94,479	103,200
Sorghum and other annual fodders ..	8,094	25,963	28,112	35,591	33,356	30,683
Pastures	50,541	100,424	88,195	88,787	91,912	119,563
Vineyards and orchards	17,524	50,281	55,601	61,061	64,647	66,780
Fallow	4,988	3,465	4,867	8,850	4,523	4,863
Miscellaneous ..	785	3,517	3,867	3,455	3,401	5,199
Total	129,771	282,534	287,907	350,727	324,558	375,503

NOTE.—In 1909-10, 8,000 acres, details of which are not available, were irrigated by private diversions, making a total area for that year of 137,771 acres.

Of the total area irrigated in 1924-25—375,503 acres—the percentages devoted to different purposes were as follows :—Pastures, 32 ; cereals, 12 ; lucerne, 28 ; vineyards, orchards, and gardens, 18 ; sorghum and other annual fodder crops, 8 ; fallow, 1 ; and miscellaneous, 1.

Closer Settlement in Irrigation Districts. The Commission during 1924-25 provided 195 holdings under ordinary Closer Settlement conditions for 13 discharged soldiers, 135 local civilians, and 47 approved oversea settlers. In addition, extensions to storages and supply channels made available domestic and stock supplies in new districts

providing for settlement on about 300 holdings. The area of the estates in the irrigated areas thrown open for settlement during the year totalled 3,940 acres, of which 890 acres were purchased during the year. In the districts supplied by the Goulburn Irrigation System, 42 holdings of an area of 2,973 acres were provided as follows:—1,370 acres at Rodney, 960 acres at East Goulburn, and 643 acres at Tongala. In the Koondrook Irrigation District 660 acres were subdivided into 12 allotments. At Narre Warren 16 small holdings, totalling about 280 acres, were made available.

The inauguration of a Closer Settlement area at Narre Warren and Hallam marked a new development in Closer Settlement in the State. The properties acquired, totalling 3,300 acres of rich land eminently suited for intense culture, are being drained and subdivided into small holdings suitable for market gardening and poultry farming. The district is about 24 miles from Melbourne, and, as the areas adjacent to the metropolis hitherto used for market gardening purposes are being gradually absorbed by extensions of suburban residential areas, the settlement will eventually play an important part in the supply of market garden produce for the city. Most of the 16 holdings already subdivided were immediately taken up, and other blocks are now being made available. Water will be delivered under pressure from a main supply pipe of the Mornington Peninsula System.

The Commission has practically completed the work of repatriating discharged soldiers; the chief responsibility now being to see to the welfare of the men already settled, and, by an adequate system of advances, help towards permanent improvements to their holdings. Since the commencement of the repatriation of Victoria's soldiers, the Commission has placed 2,181 discharged soldiers on irrigable blocks; of this number 343 obtained their farms under section 20 of the Closer Settlement Act.

The Commission has in hand 30,000 acres of suitable land available for settlement awaiting the extension of the storage and irrigation schemes. Of this area, 1,300 acres near Kyabram are available for immediate occupation; 10,000 acres are at Katandra, which will be served by the East Goulburn Channel (now being enlarged and extended); and 3,300 acres are at Calivil, near the River Loddon. Some of the reserve lands are temporarily leased as follows:—a balance of 10,000 acres of the irrigable portion of Red Cliffs Soldier Settlement; 3,000 acres at Maffra (partly subdivided); and 3,000 acres at Hallam and Narre Warren. These will be made available for settlement as the occasion demands and as soon as the progress of the works permit.

The following statement shows the lands purchased for civilians and discharged soldiers by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission and the extent of settlement on each estate after subdivision. The subdivided portions are already supporting twenty times as many families as were living on them previously. The statement contains

also particulars of settlement effected under section 20 of the *Closer Settlement Act* 1915 outside the large estates subdivided by the Commission :—

Closer Settlement Estate.	Area of Lands purchased by the State in Acres.	Properties Subdivided.						
		Area in Acres.	Number.	Number of Families thereon when Purchased.	Subdivided into—		Number of Closer Settlement Blocks now occupied.	Present Increase in Number of Families.
					Number of Closer Settlement Blocks.	Average Area in Acres.		
Shepparton	14,170	14,170	33	29	388	34	373	344
East Goulburn	10,970	960	1	1	13	71	13	12
Rodney	2,800	2,750	6	4	40	69	34	30
Stanhope	21,500	21,500	7	13	330	55	301	288
Kyabram	4,600	3,000	7	10	57	52	53	43
Tongala	18,820	18,820	40	35	314	58	300	265
Koyuga	4,200	4,200	} Pt. 1	..	{ 50	79	48	48
Cornelia Creek	2,500	2,500			{ 19	161	19	19
Nanneella	9,000	9,000	17	7	119	73	115	108
Echuca	3,000	3,000	8	4	31	101	30	26
Bamawm	13,400	13,400	28	21	160	70	176	155
Dingee	500	500	3	1	17	27	14	13
Calivil	3,300	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cohuna	12,000	12,000	29	10	137	83	119	109
Koondrook	9,080	9,080	14	10	135	61	111	101
Swan Hill	12,500	12,500	34	16	303	39	288	272
Nyah	3,800	3,800	8	1	237	15	233	232
Merbein (Crown)	8,300	8,300	..	..	410	20	407	407
Red Cliffs	33,000	18,000	1	3	706	17	696	663
Bacchus Marsh	70	70	1	..	2	36	2	2
Werribee	10,000	10,000	1	11	233	36	223	218
Hallam	3,300	280	3	1	16	17	13	12
Maffra	7,900	4,900	7	4	107	43	37	33
Properties purchased under Section 20, <i>Closer Settlement Act</i> 1915, outside above Estates, <i>vide</i> page 478	209,290	173,310	249	181	3,844	41	3,611	3,430
	19,540	..	..	..	..	..	200	..
	228,830							

The development of irrigation in all parts of the world is one of slow but sure growth; and, although in some countries there has been a slight retrogression on account of the post-war slump in markets for agricultural produce, it is gratifying to note that, in this country, irrigation development has continued to make satisfactory progress. Settlement during the year has been effected mainly in the Murrabit and Shepparton irrigation districts. In the Murrabit district the opening of the new railway has given the district a great impetus, and the township of Murrabit is developing with rapidity.

In the dried fruit irrigation areas the main crop of sultanas was of outstanding quality, being considered by experts to be equal to, if not better than, the highest grades produced in other countries. This

**Progress of
Irrigated Closer
Settled
Districts.**

result was attained by the introduction of a new process of dipping known as the "cold dip," and to special attention paid to harvesting and processing. In Red Cliffs, the largest soldier settlement in the State, an area of 8,000 acres is now planted with vines, and 600 acres with citrus trees. The yield in 1924, as the result of less than four years' settlement, was 570 tons of dried fruit; in 1925, the harvest amounted to 2,500 tons; and, in the coming season, a yield of between 4,000 and 5,000 tons is anticipated. Some settlers are profitably engaged in sidelines such as fresh fruit, green peas, and tomato growing. Australian sales of dried fruits are controlled by the recently established Victorian Dried Fruits Board, and sales overseas by the Commonwealth Dried Fruits Control Board.

The Co-operative Fruit Canneries at Shepparton and Kyabram again had a most successful season—the combined pack of over 8,000,000 tins being disposed of locally and overseas at satisfactory prices. Another co-operative cannery has been established at Mooroopna; the capacity of the Kyabram Cannery is being increased; and, at Shepparton, the capacity of the cannery is to be doubled and a cool store provided.

With the objective of improving the quality of herds and their milk-producing capabilities, herd-testing associations have been formed in the Tongala, Nanneella, Cohuna, and Kerang irrigation districts. Some of the best pure-bred herds in the State are located in irrigation districts.

The Irrigation Research Committee, comprising representatives of the Department of Agriculture and the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, the formation of which was mentioned in the 1923-24 issue of this publication, has carried out experiments at Swan Hill and Rochester during 1925, and these will be extended to Stanhope and Tongala. The results obtained are most gratifying, and indicate that, given the correct manurial treatment, crops yielding as much as 7 tons of lucerne hay per acre could be obtained.

In addition to waterworks for purposes of irrigation, extensive schemes for the supply of water for domestic and stock purposes are under the control of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. Altogether, the area within the State so supplied is approximately 22,214 square miles—slightly more than one-quarter of the total area of the State. The major portion so supplied is in the Mallee and Wimmera districts.

The number of towns supplied with water, exclusive of the City of Melbourne and its suburbs, is as follows:—69 towns of a total population of 106,580 supplied by the Commission, 106 towns with a total population of 174,070 supplied by Waterworks Trusts, and 18 towns with a total population of 74,720 supplied by Local Governing Bodies.

Supply of
water for
domestic and
stock purposes.

STORAGE AND SUPPLY SCHEMES.

Total Storages in State. In 1902 the total capacity of storages in the State was 172,000 acre-feet. The present capacity is about 871,610 acre-feet, and, when the Sugarloaf, Wimmera, and Maffra Storages have been completed, the total capacity will exceed 1,275,000 acre-feet. The Hume Reservoir, which is in course of construction, and is not included in the storages referred to, will contain between 1,100,000 and 2,000,000 acre-feet (*vide* page 499), half of which can, subject to the provisions of the River Murray Agreement, be credited to the State of Victoria. The construction of storage works by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission was continued during the year.

Goulburn Storages. At the Sugarloaf Reservoir, on the Upper Goulburn River, work is well advanced with the main retaining wall, which consists of a diaphragm of concrete, a wall of clayey material on the upstream side of the diaphragm, and supporting masses of rock. The valve tower has been completed for some time, and hydraulic lifters for operating the valves have now been placed in position. A volume of about 80,000 acre-feet of water can already be held in store, and this will be increased to 306,000 acre-feet when the present undertaking is completed. It has been ascertained by surveys that the site would admit of a storage basin of a total capacity of 918,000 acre-feet. This result could be obtained by progressive stages. It is expected that the cast iron gates and pipes for an emergency or power outlet will be placed in position during the coming year. In view of the possibility of the outlet being utilized in connexion with the Sugarloaf Hydro-electric Scheme (*vide* page 499), the State Electricity Commission was consulted prior to the final adoption of plans.

At the Waranga Reservoir, which has a storage capacity of 333,400 acre-feet, work is proceeding on a wall of reinforced concrete that is being built to further strengthen the present embankment. This work, which was commenced in 1923, is practically completed. In addition, a considerable amount of work has been done on the inlet and outlet channels, including the raising of a measuring weir on the outlet channel.

Wimmera Storages. Progress was made with the works for supplementing the domestic and stock supplies to the districts served by the Wimmera-Mallee system. The embankment at Taylor's Lake has been completed, and the storage filled to its full capacity—30,000 acre-feet. The building of the embankment for the first stage of Pine Lake Reservoir, and the construction of the valve tower and outlet structures have been completed. The lake is now filled to a depth of 37 feet, the volume stored being 22,000 acre-feet, all of which is held within its natural banks. The embankment will be built in two stages, the first of which will enable 34,000 acre-feet of water to be impounded. The ultimate holding capacity of this storage will be 62,000 acre-feet. The new main channel connecting the Wimmera

River with Taylor's Lake and Pine Lake Storage is completed and in operation. Its capacity is 1,200 acre-feet per day.

The storage provision of the Wimmera-Mallee Supply Scheme now reaches 152,350 acre-feet as against 69,000 acre-feet a few years ago. Storage works now in course of construction will carry the capacity to no less than 212,350 acre-feet. The water is distributed throughout a total area of about 11,000 square miles by main and distributary channels aggregating over 4,950 miles in length (exclusive of an approximately equal length of farmers' connecting branches). This system also supplies water to 32 towns.

Northern Mallee Water Supply. In the Walpeup portion of the Northern Mallee, comprising an area of about 1,250,000 acres, which adjoins the Wimmera-Mallee districts but is generally too high for inclusion in the gravitation channel system, the Commission has met the water supply needs of settlers by sinking bores, and excavating large public tanks. There are now 97 successful public bores in this area with an average depth of 460 feet, and 193 tanks with a total storage capacity of 1,032,500 cubic yards.

Millewa Water Supply. The extensive domestic and stock supply scheme for the supply of water to an area of about 1,000,000 acres in the extreme north-western portion of the State (opened up by the 55 miles of railway from Red Cliffs that is being constructed for the service of that territory), is so well advanced that a new Waterworks District, known as "Lower Millewa," has been constituted. The scheme will comprise two main lifts, of about 125 feet and 150 feet, the first being from Lake Cullulleraine—a depression on the edge of the river flats about 5 miles from the River Murray. In the first lift system 50 miles of main channels and 267 miles of distributaries have already been constructed; these will serve 421 Mallee blocks, with a total area of 350,000 acres, which have been allotted to settlers. The work will be carried out in successive stages to meet the requirements of the gradually extending settlement. In this area and the adjacent Sunset country, 80 tanks have been constructed, with a total storage capacity of 110,700 cubic yards.

Carwarp Waterworks District. In the Carwarp Waterworks District, supplied from the Red Cliffs pumping station, the construction of a main channel to supply about 50 square miles of new country at Carwarp and Colignan is nearing completion. The works to supply water to the high lands surrounding Carwarp Railway Station, including 12 miles of channels and a pump and rising main, have been completed and water supplied to settlers. These lands have been formed into a separate waterworks district called "Carwarp Central."

Mornington Peninsula Scheme. The important scheme of reticulated supply to the Naval Base, the inland towns of Berwick, Beaconsfield, Noble Park, Spring Vale, Dandenong, Somerville, Cranbourne, and Bittern, and the bayside towns of Mornington, Frankston, South Frankston, Seaford, Carrum, Chelsea, Edithvale, and Aspendale, is in full working order. The reservoirs at Beaconsfield, Frankston, South Frankston, Mornington, and Bittern were kept fully

supplied during the last year. Besides carrying out large extensions of mains in all existing districts, the work of reticulating the highest levels of South Frankston were completed.

The storage of 36,000,000 gallons capacity, on Heywood's Hill, 2 miles north of Dandenong, proved very satisfactory, and, in addition to considerable extensions being effected in the reticulation generally, the new main supply line from Berwick to Heywood's Hill Reservoir has been completed and is now in full working order.

The main race is now being extended from Toomuc Creek, to tap the Cannibal Creek and Bunyip River, as outlined in the original scheme. This will ensure adequate supplies to meet the increasing demands of reticulations already connected, and to provide for Hastings, Pakenham, Garfield, Bunyip, and, when required, the bayside towns of Dromana, Rosebud, Rye, Sorrento, and Portsea. It will also give an abundant supply for the scheme for developing the irrigation, by pressure pipes, of small blocks suitable for market gardening and intensive culture. In this connexion the estates in the Hallam Valley, comprising 3,300 acres, purchased by the Commission for Closer Settlement purposes, are being subdivided and allotted to settlers for intensive culture under irrigation.

**Goulburn
Irrigation
Areas.**

With the practical completion of the Waranga Reservoir enlargement and improvement works, and the steady construction of Sugarloaf Reservoir, active preparations have been made for enlarging and extending the works for the distribution of the increased supplies of water becoming available, and considerable expansion of the whole system is now taking place. The main Eastern Channel—from the Goulburn Weir to the River Broken—previously supplying Shepparton District only, is being enlarged, and extended north-easterly about 15 miles. The Shepparton District has been extended, and further areas, including 9,000 acres purchased by the Commission for Closer Settlement purposes, will be supplied. New lands south of the River Broken, comprising 14,000 acres, are now receiving supplies, and have been constituted the "South Shepparton Irrigation District."

On the west of the River Goulburn, several main channels of the Rodney District have been enlarged and new main channels constructed to cope with the increasing demand for water. Further west, the works of the Rochester Irrigation District are being extended, and already 18,000 acres have been added to the district. A new main channel—Tandarra-Calivil, from the Waranga-Western main channel, towards the River Loddon, is under construction, and is well advanced. This channel will supplement the supply to the Tragowel Plains Irrigation District, and some large areas of new irrigation lands *en route*. The Waranga-Western main channel has been extended to the River Loddon (98 miles from Waranga Reservoir), and a weir and regulator built on that river, enabling the Commission to augment the supply to the Boort District, hitherto dependent entirely on the uncertain quantities of water obtainable from the River Loddon.

In the districts administered from the Cohuna and Loddon-Murray Irrigation Areas. Kerang centres the completion of the Torumbarry Weir has been responsible for a marked impetus in the development of irrigation, extensive areas now being provided for by gravitation entirely, where previously a combined gravitation and pumping system was necessary.

As well as the improvements in the conditions obtaining in established districts, large areas of dry farming lands are rapidly being brought under irrigation. First among these is an area of 8,000 acres between Gunbower Channel and Cohuna Irrigation District. A complete system of channels has been provided for these lands, which have now been constituted the "Leitchville Irrigation District."

Another important development was the reticulation of 6,000 acres between the Rivers Murray and Loddon, and the inclusion of these lands within the Koondrook Irrigation District. This extension includes a number of soldier settlers' holdings, previously supplied, at great cost, by private pumping plants.

The irrigable area benefited by Torumbarry Weir was still further increased by the construction of main and distributary channels from Pyramid Creek, upstream from Kerang Weir. These works provide a supply for 8,400 acres of lands north-east of Kerang, and now added to the Gannawarra Irrigation District.

The continuous gravitation supplies rendered available by Torumbarry Weir and distribution works enabled the Kerang North-West Lakes to be maintained at full supply level during the irrigation season, while the Swan Hill Irrigation District of 21,000 acres, which, until recently, was supplied partly by gravitation and partly by pumping, has now been brought wholly under the influence of gravitation, and extended by the inclusion of about 14,600 acres of lands between Lake Boga and Swan Hill.

The important irrigation works, to provide a gravitation supply to the country between Third Lake and Benjeroop, have been completed and are in full operation, and the lands so served—about 13,000 acres—have been constituted the "Third Lake" Irrigation District.

Good progress was made during the year with the construction of the cyclopean concrete dam on the Macallister River, which, when completed, will impound 150,000 acre-feet of water for the irrigation of 80,000 acres of land. The dam is sufficiently high to store about 50,000 acre-feet of water in the summer of 1925-26. The northern main channel, commanding Newry and Boisdale Flats, and the whole of Maffra and Sale districts, has been completed, and the reticulation of Boisdale Flats so far advanced that water for the irrigation of this rich area is now being delivered. It is expected that during the ensuing summer water will also be available for Airly, Cobain's, and other estates (totalling 6,000 acres, in the vicinity of Sale) purchased and subdivided by the Commission for Closer Settlement purposes. In the area to be served by the southern main channel, the distributary channels on the Mewburn Park Closer Settlement Estate have been completed, and a supply can now be

given to this area also, if urgently required, by pumping from the river pending completion of the main channel.

Red Cliffs Irrigation District. At Red Cliffs, the scheme, which ranks first in importance among the pumping systems of the State, supplies water to an area totalling 18,000 acres, including the township and 704 soldier settlement blocks. The plant is capable of delivering 500 acre-feet of water per day, lifted 105 feet. The total length of channels constructed to date is 124 miles. Channels having a total length of 95 miles have been lined with concrete, with the result that 614 blocks—86 per cent. of the total in the settlement—are protected from seepage from channels. Following considerable progress in the township, which has been proclaimed an Urban Waterworks District, a concrete standpipe, 70 feet high and 26 feet in diameter, has been erected, and reticulation extended to meet requirements.

Flood Protection Schemes The Commission has under construction a comprehensive scheme of works for the reclamation of the extensive swamps in West Gippsland, known as Kooweerup and Cardinia, and for the protection from periodical flooding of the surrounding low-lying lands, aggregating in all 100,000 acres. These areas have been constituted Flood Protection Districts under the provisions of the Water Acts. The construction of the huge main drains, feeders and subsidiary works has reached the stage that provides the landholders affected with protection from all but abnormal floods, and flood protection charges have been levied accordingly.

Flood protection works have also been constructed at Loch Garry (below Shepparton) for the regulation of Goulburn flood waters. The area benefited—about 40,000 acres—has been constituted the “Loch Garry Flood Protection District.” Further down the Goulburn (at Kanyapella) works have been constructed for the relief from flooding of an area of about 13,500 acres. This area has been constituted the “Kanyapella Flood Protection District.”

River Murray Waters. The scheme of works provided in the River Murray Waters Acts passed by the Governments of the Commonwealth and of the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia comprises storages on the Upper River Murray and at Lake Victoria, locks and weirs in the course of the River Murray from its mouth to Echuca, and also locks and weirs on the lower part of the River Darling or the River Murrumbidgee, as may be decided by the Government of New South Wales. The Acts provide that for purposes of construction the Minister for Public Works of New South Wales shall be the Constructing Authority for that State; that, for the State of South Australia, the Commissioner of Public Works shall be the Constructing Authority; and that the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission shall be the Constructing Authority for Victoria.

Under the River Murray Agreement of 1914 the estimated total cost of the whole of the works is set down at £4,663,000. It is now clear, from the experience gained in connexion with the works which have been put in hand to date, that the total cost of the works will

be fully double that amount. The four contracting Governments have agreed to share equally in the total cost of the works. The total expenditure incurred up to 30th June, 1925, on the portion of the scheme completed and in course of construction was £3,440,000.

The site of the Hume Reservoir is a little below the junction of the rivers Murray and Mitta Mitta. Originally it was designed to provide for a capacity of 1,100,000 acre-feet, but, at a conference of Ministers representing the four interested Governments, held on the 8th and 9th days of August, 1924, the following proposals raised by the Government of Victoria were agreed to :—

- (a) That the work of construction of the Hume dam, of sufficient dimensions to provide for a reservoir of 2,000,000 acre-feet, proceed for a period not exceeding three years, and that the question of the ultimate capacity and completion of the reservoir be then the subject of a further conference. All waters to be used to meet the present allocation obligations and as a reserve for dry years.
- (b) That provision be made for outlet works at the Hume Reservoir suitable for hydro-electric generation purposes, provided, however, that the use of the reservoir for these purposes does not interfere with the volumes of water required for the purposes set out in the River Murray Agreement. The cost of such additional outlet works, estimated at £40,000, shall be borne in equal shares by the States of New South Wales and Victoria, which Governments should have the sole use of any power generated at the reservoir.

The work is being carried out by the Constructing Authorities for the States of New South Wales and Victoria. On the New South Wales section considerable progress has been made, and work is now being proceeded with on the concrete structure. On the Victorian side the construction of the main embankment is being steadily advanced.

The Torumbarry Weir and Lock (near Echuca) has been in successful operation during the last year, and water has been diverted for the various irrigation districts benefited.

Weir and Lock No. 11—situated about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile downstream from Mildura—will form, when completed, a lock pool for about 40 miles upstream, providing a local reserve storage of great value and reducing the suction lift at the Mildura and Red Cliffs Pumping Stations. Good progress was made with the works, including the excavation of the lock canal; concreting of lock walls and floor, and construction of the lock gates. The Constructing Authority for New South Wales is also proceeding with the construction of No. 10 Weir and Lock at Wentworth; while, in the South Australian section, Weir and Lock No. 1 at Blanchetown and No. 3 near Lake Bonney have been completed, substantial progress has been made with No. 5 near Renmark, and No. 9 near the offtake to Lake Victoria, and a start made on No. 2. Lake Victoria Storage Works are also approaching completion.

Artesian Bores.

The following particulars relating to artesian boring have been supplied by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission :—

ARTESIAN AND SUB-ARTESIAN BORING (MALLEE).

Number of Bores Sunk.*		Total Depth of Bores.*	
State.	Private.	State.	Private.
96	263	Feet. 44,492	Feet. 51,200

* At 31st December, 1924.

Mildura Irrigation Settlement.

The Mildura Irrigation Settlement, on the River Murray, was established in 1887 under the management of the Chaffey Brothers Limited, and in 1895 the control of the water supply was vested in the First Mildura Irrigation Trust. Water is obtained by pumping from the river. The following particulars are an indication of the prosperity of the settlement :—

POPULATION OF MILDURA SHIRE, 1891 TO 1924.*

1891	April (Census)	..	2,321	1922	December	..	..	13,760
1901	March (Census)	..	3,325	1923	„	..	..	13,950
1911	April (Census)	..	6,119	1924	„	..	..	14,250
1921	April (Census)	..	13,183					

* Including the population of the town of Mildura, which up to 1920 was part of the shire.

The capital value of property in the Shire of Mildura in 1913 was £1,294,160. In 1924 in the same area it had risen to £3,730,540. The receipts and payments of the Mildura Irrigation Trust during the year ended 30th June, 1925, were as follows :—

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF FIRST MILDURA IRRIGATION TRUST, 1924-25.

Receipts.		£	Payments.		£
Horticultural Rates	..	37,727	Wages and Salaries	..	16,307
Special Waterings, &c.	..	2,574	Firewood	..	21,155
Miscellaneous	..	3,473	Interest, Sinking Fund and Depreciation	..	4,315
			Miscellaneous	..	4,556
Total	..	43,774	Total	..	46,333

The extent of watering done represented 22,876 water acres in 1917-18, 39,895 acres in 1918-19, 41,808 acres in 1919-20, 35,632 acres in 1920-21, 44,150 acres in 1921-22, 42,807 acres in 1922-23, 42,854 acres in 1923-24, and 39,212 acres in 1924-25.

METEOROLOGY.

Particulars in regard to climate and weather conditions have been furnished by the Commonwealth Meteorologist, and are given in the following tables. In the first are shown the rainfall for each of the years 1922, 1923, and 1924, and the average yearly amount of rainfall deduced from all available records to December, 1924, in each of the 26 river basins or districts constituting the State of Victoria :—

RAINFALL.—YEARLY RECORDS AND AVERAGES.

Basin or District.	Rainfall.			
	During the Year—			Yearly Average to December, 1924.
	1922.	1923.	1924.	
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
Glenelg and Wannon Rivers ..	24.42	29.75	28.72	26.27
Fitzroy, Eumeralla, and Merri Rivers	27.06	32.61	26.73	28.28
Hopkins River and Mt. Emu Creek ..	23.27	29.55	31.94	25.32
Mt. Elephant and Lake Corangamite	23.43	27.00	27.99	24.79
Cape Otway Forest ..	43.74	47.12	44.71	39.40
Moorabool and Barwon Rivers ..	23.17	24.47	32.28	24.55
Werribee and Saltwater Rivers ..	21.61	19.88	31.89	23.82
Yarra River and Dandenong Creek ..	35.37	34.19	49.40	34.26
Koo-wee-rup Swamp ..	37.29	37.19	47.57	36.29
South Gippsland ..	38.52	43.48	40.95	39.17
Latrobe and Thomson Rivers ..	35.94	39.12	47.21	38.54
Macallister and Avon Rivers ..	24.18	22.73	25.91	23.91
Mitchell River ..	25.09	24.37	25.85	26.17
Tambo and Nicholson Rivers ..	25.62	23.08	28.61	27.64
Snowy River ..	28.64	28.42	33.66	34.66
Murray River ..	11.66	17.17	23.56	16.93
Mitta Mitta and Kiewa Rivers ..	26.54	38.22	46.10	33.67
Ovens River ..	25.05	34.60	42.14	33.82
Goulburn River ..	21.25	27.36	32.38	26.64
Campaspe River ..	16.05	22.14	28.33	23.17
Loddon River ..	14.21	20.62	24.93	20.46
Avoca River ..	13.26	17.39	22.14	17.30
Avon and Richardson Rivers ..	15.30	17.34	20.08	15.53
Eastern Wimmera ..	21.11	23.70	26.32	21.53
Western Wimmera ..	20.28	23.82	22.05	20.11
Mallee ..	9.09	12.95	14.24	12.72
Weighted Averages ..	21.35	25.34	28.65	24.39

The wettest portion of the State is the Cape Otway Forest, which is closely followed by the South Gippsland district and the Latrobe and Thomson Basin. The lowest rainfall occurs in the Mallee district, where it averages 12.72 inches per annum, as compared with 24.39 inches for the whole State.

An estimate of the areas of the State, in square miles, subject to different degrees of rainfall was first made in 1910 and the figures have stood till the present time. However, the Commonwealth Meteorologist, in view of the more comprehensive data available, now gives the following figures:—

DISTRIBUTION OF AVERAGE RAINFALL.

Rainfall.						Area.
Inches.						Square Miles.
Under 15 ..	..	..	..	..	..	19,270
15 to 20 ..	..	..	..	..	..	13,492
20 to 25 ..	..	..	..	..	..	14,170
25 to 30 ..	..	..	..	..	..	15,579
30 to 40 ..	..	..	..	..	..	14,450
40 to 50 ..	..	..	..	..	..	7,338
50 to 60 ..	..	..	..	..	..	2,980
Over 60 ..	..	..	..	..	..	605

The rainfall recorded for each quarter of 1924 and the quarterly averages up to 1924 deduced from all available records are as follows:—

RAINFALL—QUARTERLY RECORDS AND AVERAGES.

Basin or District.	First Quarter.		Second Quarter.		Third Quarter.		Fourth Quarter.	
	Amount.	Average.	Amount.	Average.	Amount.	Average.	Amount.	Average.
	points	points	points	points	points	points	points	points
Glenelg and Wannon Rivers ..	741	361	623	772	813	906	695	588
Fitzroy, Eumeralla, and Merri Rivers ..	850	436	592	825	673	947	558	620
Hopkins River and Mt. Emu Creek ..	819	431	612	701	846	809	917	591
Mt. Elephant and Lake Corangamite ..	823	439	522	691	692	763	762	586
Cape Otway Forest ..	1,290	604	1,015	1,167	1,197	1,325	969	844
Moorabool and Barwon Rivers ..	1,181	481	489	659	672	710	886	605
Werribee and Saltwater Rivers ..	993	519	376	597	746	652	1,074	614
Yarra River and Dandenong Creek ..	1,559	702	855	871	1,042	931	1,484	922
Koo-wee-rup Swamp ..	1,487	692	886	993	1,166	1,016	1,218	928
South Gippsland ..	1,358	785	664	1,082	1,053	1,141	1,020	909
Latrobe and Thomson Rivers ..	1,487	730	755	985	1,105	1,115	1,374	1,024
Macallister and Avon Rivers ..	992	614	322	522	525	599	752	656
Mitchell River ..	926	656	414	555	498	689	747	687
Tambo and Nicholson Rivers ..	1,050	702	455	651	443	676	913	735
Snowy River ..	1,092	815	579	879	545	903	1,150	869
Murray River ..	532	311	457	493	554	493	813	396
Mitta Mitta and Kiewa Rivers ..	1,090	606	801	919	1,237	1,037	1,482	805
Ovens River ..	861	532	906	993	1,107	1,105	1,340	752
Goulburn River ..	803	460	660	763	807	812	968	629
Campaspe River ..	739	413	550	685	657	728	887	491
Loddon River ..	660	355	430	605	591	632	812	454
Avoca River ..	648	282	354	525	497	549	715	374
Avon and Richardson Rivers ..	500	249	299	462	502	504	707	338
Eastern Wimmera ..	555	302	477	647	729	725	871	479
Western Wimmera ..	597	255	480	619	608	703	520	434
Mallee ..	319	229	203	359	313	392	589	292
The whole State ..	788	441	520	680	689	742	868	576

The averages of the climatic elements for the seasons in Melbourne deduced from all available official records are given below:—

AVERAGES OF CLIMATIC ELEMENTS IN MELBOURNE.

Meteorological Elements.	Spring.	Summer.	Autumn.	Winter.
Mean pressure of air in inches ..	29·970	29·923	30·080	30·077
Monthly range of pressure of air—Inches	0·892	0·767	0·814	0·978
Mean temperature of air in shade—°Fahr.	57·7	66·6	59·4	50·0
Mean daily range of temperature of air in shade—°Fahr. ..	18·6	21·1	17·4	13·9
Mean relative humidity. Saturation=100	66	60	70	76
Mean rainfall in inches ..	7·35	5·90	6·56	5·80
Mean number of days of rain ..	38	24	33	42
Mean amount of spontaneous evaporation in inches ..	10·21	17·25	7·82	3·62
Mean daily amount of cloudiness—Scale 0 to 10 ..	6·0	5·2	5·9	6·4
Mean number of days of fog ..	1	1	6	11

In the subjoined statement are shown the yearly averages of the climatic elements in Melbourne for 1924 and for the last 69 years, as well as the extremes between which the yearly average values of such elements have oscillated in the latter period.

YEARLY AVERAGES AND EXTREMES OF CLIMATIC ELEMENTS.

Meteorological Elements.	Yearly Averages and Extremes.			
	Year 1924.	Average for 69 Years.	Extremes between which the Yearly Average Values have oscillated in 69 years.	
			Highest.	Lowest.
Mean atmospheric pressure (inches) ..	30·001	30·012	30·106	29·945
Highest " " " ..	30·624	30·605	30·762	30·488
Lowest " " " ..	29·192	29·255	29·495	28·942
Range (inches) ..	1·432	1·350	1·719	1·104
Mean temperature of air in shade (°Fahr.) ..	57·4	58·4	59·9	57·3
Mean daily maximum .. (°Fahr.)	65·4	67·3	69·0	65·4
Mean daily minimum ..	49·4	49·5	51·2	47·2
Absolute maximum ..	104·3	105·2	111·2	96·6
Absolute minimum ..	32·9	30·8	34·2	27·0
Mean daily range ..	16·0	17·8	20·4	15·0
Absolute annual range ..	71·4	74·4	82·6	66·0
Solar Radiation (mean maxima) ..	112·2	117·9	127·6	106·0
Terrestrial Radiation (mean minima) .. (°Fahr.)	43·5	44·0	46·8	39·5
Rainfall (in inches) ..	36·48	25·61	38·04	15·61
Number of wet days ..	171	137	171	102
Year's amount of free evaporation (in inches) ..	36·65	38·90	45·66	31·59
Percentage of humidity (saturation =100) ..	67	68	76	62
Cloudiness (scale 10 = overcast, 0 = clear) ..	6·3	5·9	6·4	4·8
Number of days of fog ..	36	19	39	5

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

Department of Agriculture. This Department is controlled by a Minister of the Crown, under whom there is a large staff of experts with the Director of Agriculture as permanent head. These officers are actively engaged in supervising all matters relating to the Agricultural, Pastoral, Fruit and Dairying Industries of the State, and in giving instructions to those engaged therein. The Department publishes a monthly journal.

Government Experimental Farms. The great expansion in our rural industries during recent years has been largely brought about by the general adoption of better methods of farming, and by the introduction of more prolific wheats, and it is claimed that these improvements have been adopted as the result of the experimental and demonstration work of the Department of Agriculture. In 1912 a Central Research Farm was established at Werribee, and it is there that the initiative with regard to practically all experimental and research work is now undertaken. The State farms at Rutherglen and Longerenong are used as district experimental stations for the North-East and the Wimmera respectively. In addition, there are a number of subsidized experimental and demonstration areas located on private farms throughout the State.

Agricultural Colleges. An Act for the establishment of Agricultural Colleges was passed in 1884, and 14,458 acres, comprising 5,955 acres at Dookie, 2,386 acres at Longerenong, 2,500 acres at Gunyah, 2,800 acres at Olangolah, and 817 acres at Bullarto, were reserved as sites for colleges and experimental farms. The areas at Dookie and Longerenong are being used for the purpose for which they were reserved, but the other three are devoted to other uses.

In addition to the college and farm lands, provision was made by the Act of 1884 to permanently reserve from sale an area of not more than 150,000 acres of Crown lands, and to vest it in trustees to be appointed, who should hold it in trust for the benefit of and by way of an endowment for State agricultural colleges and experimental farms. The land so reserved now amounts to 71,412 acres, and is let for grazing and agricultural purposes.

The fee for students in residence at the agricultural colleges is £35 per annum for maintenance, including stationery and medical and other charges. No charge is made for instruction. Accommodation is provided at Dookie for 100 and at Longerenong for 50 students.

**School of
Primary
Agriculture
and
Horticulture.**

This institution is situated in the Burnley Gardens, close to the Hawthorn and Heyington railway stations. The classes are open to male and female students above fourteen years of age. The Course for the Certificate in Horticulture occupies two years, and is intended for those who propose to follow orchard or garden work as a profession. Part time classes are also held for those who are unable to devote full time to the subject. Another feature of the work at the school is the holding of regular classes of instruction in Agricultural Science for those desirous of taking the subject either in the Intermediate or the Leaving grade at the Annual Public Examinations conducted by the University. A practical training is obtained in the orchards, gardens, and nursery connected with the school; the course also includes lectures and demonstrations by various expert teachers. Excursions to up-to-date farms, orchards, and nurseries form part of the work of the school. In 1924 the students enrolled numbered 140.

**Experimental
Farms and
Agricultural
Colleges.**

Various particulars relating to the State Experimental Farms and Agricultural Colleges are embodied in the next statement.

GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTAL FARMS AND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES, 1924.

Particulars.	Central Research Farm, Werribee.	Ruther- glen Farm, &c.	Dookie Agricultural College.	Longer- enong Agricultural College.	School of Primary Agriculture, &c.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Professional Staff	1	2	12	8	4
Hands employed	44	40	44	17	5
Students	15	9	92	50	140
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of plant and machinery	3,432	2,770	7,735	4,612	150
Value of produce for year	9,833	4,975	12,126	9,492	1,200
Receipts—					
Government Grant	12,920	6,534	3,750	1,250	2,110
Fees .. .. .	..	..	3,385	1,781	93
Sale of produce, &c.	9,758	4,896	8,781	6,667	909
Other	315	135	100	33	8
Total receipts	22,993	11,565	16,016	9,731	3,120
Expenditure—					
Salaries—					
Professional Staff	372	765	4,357	2,047	1,307
General Staff	6,247	4,968	4,338	2,279	1,017
Buildings and maintenance	1,973	1,369	17,197	7,021	277
Other	3,446	2,325	145	..	469
Total expenditure	12,038	9,427	26,037*	11,347	3,070

* Excluding grant received from the Council of Agricultural Education.

GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTAL FARMS AND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES, 1924—*continued.*

Particulars.	Central Research Farm, Werribee.	Rutherglen Farm, &c.	Dookie Agricultural College.	Longerenong Agricultural College.	School of Primary Agriculture, &c.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
Area under—					
Cereals for Grain	471	220	400	660	..
Hay	326	140	300	100	1
Fruit trees, &c. .. ..	..	1½	12	20	14
Vines .. ..	..	101	15	5	4
Green fodder	55	14	7	40	..
Other crops	232	54	..	..	½
Total area under crop ..	1,084	530½	734	825	15½
Area of land in fallow	686	307	400	633	..
Area under artificially sown grasses ..	236	129	20	32	9
Area resting	150	142	1,146	342	..
Total area of arable land ..	2,156	1,108½	2,300	1,832	24½
Balance of area	53	204½	3,655	554	8½
Total area of farm	2,209	1,313	5,955	2,386	33
Live Stock—	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Horses	107	47	100	44	2
Dairy cows	80	15	45	23	6
All other cattle	75	10	181	47	9
Sheep	1,250	450	2,370	812	..
Pigs .. ..	..	40	185	44	..

Inspection of Orchards, Nurseries, &c. The orchards, nurseries, and gardens of the State are systematically inspected by the officers of the Horticultural Division of the Department of Agriculture. Nurseries are inspected every six months, and certified to by the departmental supervisors if clean and free from disease. Old, worn-out, and infected orchards are destroyed.

The Department has purchased fumigating outfits for the purpose of fumigating citrus trees for the control of scale insects, and is performing the work for citrus growers at cost price. Much satisfaction has been expressed by growers at this being done.

Special attention is being paid to the grading and packing of fruit; packing classes have been established and are successfully conducted by departmental officers in a number of fruit districts throughout the State. In addition to this, individual growers receive personal instruction.

Lectures and demonstrations are given on the various other phases of horticulture; experiments are carried out in the treatment of diseases; and sites are selected on the farms of intending fruit-growers, to whom advice is given as to the most suitable varieties to be planted and their subsequent treatment.

The fear of introducing the fruit-flies *Tephritis tryoni* and *Halterophora capitata* and diseases arising from other causes has necessitated a thorough examination of fruit from Queensland, New South Wales, and elsewhere. The fruit-fly question is a very grave one, and, should either of the above-named insects obtain a footing in Victoria, a great portion of the large and important fruit industry of our State will be practically ruined.

Plants and cuttings coming from foreign parts are fumigated if a certificate that they have been treated at the port of shipment does not accompany the consignment. Even when they have been thus certified the Senior Fruit Inspector has the right of examination and, if necessary, of ordering a second fumigation.

Forestry. The State Forests are controlled by a Commission of three, which was appointed in 1919. The State has a wooded area of about 8,000,000 acres, of which about 4,162,000 acres are set aside as timber and climatic reserves. The wooded area consists of—

1. Three million acres of merchantable forest, mainly situated along the Dividing Range with its spurs and foothills and also including the red gum forests of the northern river basins and of the River Glenelg in the south-western district.

2. Three million acres of forest in the more rugged portions of the mountain region. These forests are not at present accessible for practical working, owing to difficulties of transport; their protection, however, is essential for the maintenance of streams and springs.

3. Two million acres in the north-west of the State, known as Mallee, bearing at intervals a thick growth of stunted eucalypts and interspersed with belts of cypress pine and belar.

The forests of Victoria may be divided into four main classes which are referred to hereunder:—

- (a) The coastal region, extending from the shore line some fifty miles northward, carries chiefly messmate and three species of stringybark. In Cape Otway district, however, bluegum, mountain ash, and spotted gum predominate; whilst, in the extreme south-east of the State, silvertop, small-fruited bluegum, bastard mahogany, bloodwood, and Gippsland grey box are found.
- (b) The mountain region. In the western half of the State the predominant species in the hill forests are messmate, bluegum, manna gum, brown and red stringybarks, and yellow box. In the eastern half of the State the prevailing species are mountain ash, spotted gum, messmate, peppermint, red ash or woollybutt, and bluegum, with stunted snow gums on the steep granitic slopes near the mountain summits.

- (c) The foothills, stretching from the Dividing Range northward down to the plains, bear three valuable species, red iron bark, white ironbark or yellow gum, and grey box.
- (d) The river basins of the Murray and the streams flowing over the northern plain, and of the River Glenelg in the south-western district, bear broad belts of river redgum.

The timbers of commercial value in Victoria number about twenty, all species of the eucalyptus family. In addition, there are a number of woods of fine grain, many of them, however, being small trees confined to limited areas.

With careful conservation and management Victoria's forests are capable of yielding considerable amounts of timber for all time, despite the ravages made upon them in the past by bush fires, settlement, and mining.

The State is notably deficient in softwoods or conifers, though over extensive areas the conditions are suitable for their growth once they are introduced. To encourage their growth, both in State and in private plantations, three large nurseries have been established, at Creswick, Macedon and Broadford, and a number of plantations have been formed, the principal ones being situated at Creswick, Mount Macedon, Frankston, Anglesea, Port Campbell, Bright, Castlemaine, Harcourt, Scarsdale, and Mount Disappointment. In addition to providing trees for the plantations, the nurseries supply considerable numbers of plants at low rates to State schools, public bodies and private applicants. This has proved of great benefit to the community by fostering an interest in tree planting generally, and especially by encouraging farmers to plant in order to afford protection to their homesteads and to provide shade and shelter for their flocks and herds.

A Forest School for training cadets is maintained at Creswick. The Commission also controls a State sawmill in the Warburton district, and Timber Seasoning Works at Newport, from which seasoned weatherboards, cabinet stock, floorings and linings are supplied, largely for use in the building of State schools and for other public works.

The Forestry Fund was established in 1918 by Act No. 2976, and made applicable only to expenditure on the improvements and reforestation of State forests and the development of forestry. In each year the Treasurer makes a grant of £40,000 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the Fund, and also half of the amount in excess of £80,000 received from royalties, leases, licences, and permits.

The revenue derived from forest sources during the financial year 1924-25 was £162,786, and the expenditure was £201,246—£179,278 of which was paid out of the Consolidated Revenue, and the balance—£21,968—from the Forestry Fund. The balance at the credit of the Fund at 30th June, 1925, was £51,602.

It is estimated that the quantity of timber produced in the rough in 1924-25 was 112,350,000 super feet. In addition, 457,328 tons measurement of fuel timber was produced.

Agriculture—expenditure and revenue connected with. The State has rendered substantial assistance to the various branches of the agricultural and pastoral industries during past years. The appended table summarizes for the last five years the items of State expenditure from consolidated revenue in this direction, and shows the amount of revenue received by the Department of Agriculture, which consists chiefly of payments by exporters for packing produce for export, and from State Forests and Nurseries, consisting chiefly of Royalties :—

**EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE CONNECTED WITH
AGRICULTURE, ETC., 1920-21 to 1924-25.**

	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
<i>Expenditure.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Department of Agriculture ..	33,282	34,610	35,063	41,549	30,652
Horticultural Branch ..	..	..	..	..	27,938*
Grants to Agricultural and Horticultural Societies, &c. ..	975	675	675	775	875
Development of Export Trade ..	58,785	61,151	60,316	53,372	50,679
Viticultural Education and Inspection of Vineyards ..	6,112	6,881	6,334	4,454	2,092
Maffra Beet Sugar Factory ..	42,159	59,791	75,291	74,497	105,680
Advances to Settlers for losses by bush fires, floods, &c. ..	2,008	91	7,300	659	1,190
Technical Agricultural Education, &c. ..	28,518	26,136	26,123	31,824	28,478
Publishing Agricultural Reports ..	249	227	329	250	213
Rabbit and Vermin Extermination ..	36,158	40,766	47,410	85,489	84,368
Stock and Dairy Branch ..	35,731	42,442	43,887	48,627	53,527
Labour Colonies ..	..	..	..	..	..
State Forests and Nurseries ..	145,790	154,023	157,347	168,880	179,278
Miscellaneous ..	2,999	2,428	3,104	6,006	6,239
Total ..	392,766	429,221	463,179	516,382	571,209
<i>Revenue.</i>					
Department of Agriculture ..	100,715	72,505	78,017	73,282	81,687
State Forests and Nurseries ..	138,679	154,611	163,038	166,446	162,786

* Previously included in Department of Agriculture.

Included in the expenditure on State Forests and Nurseries are net payments into the Forestry Fund; these amounts are as follows :—£21,474 in 1920-21, £17,020 in 1921-22, £16,205 in 1922-23, and £5,919

in 1923-24. In 1924-25, owing to increased expenditure, £21,968—not included in the above statement—was paid out of the Fund.

In addition to the expenditure shown, various sums have been advanced from loans and votes for the purpose of aiding closer settlement, for the resumption of mallee lands, for relief to farmers on account of bush fires and flood losses, and for purchase of seed wheat and fodder. These advances are gradually being repaid.

The expenditure from Loan Funds in 1924-25 was £1,765,485—£1,133,588 having been expended on discharged soldiers' land settlement, £592,372 on closer settlement, £32,399 on wire netting, £6,078 on Maffra Beet Sugar Factory, and £1,048 on Agricultural Colleges.

AGRICULTURE.

Progress of cultivation. All divisions of the State are suitable for cultivation, but the Wimmera, Mallee, and Northern are the principal wheat-growing districts and furnish about 95 per cent. of the total area under this crop. In recent years the chief extensions of the wheat-growing areas have been in the Mallee. In this district, which has a rainfall at one time thought wholly inadequate, wheat growing was rendered practicable by the introduction of machinery specially suited to the conditions, the extension of railway lines, and storage of water for domestic and stock supplies; and, with more of these facilities being made available each year, further areas are gradually being brought under cultivation. An indication of the growing importance of the Mallee is afforded by recent figures, which show that, of the wheat produced in the State in the last five seasons, the proportion obtained from the Mallee was 31 per cent., as against slightly less than 5 per cent. in 1891-92. The area under cultivation in the Mallee last season for all purposes was 2,384,300 acres.

The area cultivated in the State in 1924-25 was 6,976,664 acres, as against an annual average of 6,478,549 acres for the previous five seasons, 5,032,359 acres for the seasons 1905-15, and 3,547,111 acres for the seasons 1895-1905. Notwithstanding the great increase in the area cultivated, the dairying and pastoral industries show a considerable expansion. This is evidenced by a comparison of the exports of the principal products to overseas countries in the year 1900 with the annual average in the last five seasons. The values have risen as follows:—Butter and cheese from £1,252,277 to £3,450,950; milk and cream from £5,455 to £1,302,497; and meats from £502,285 to £1,433,090.

The increase in cultivation has been associated with new and improved farming methods. The chief of these are the practice of fallowing, the use of fertilizers, the selection of suitable seeds, and the increasing attention given to crop rotation. The more general adoption of improved methods in recent years has contributed greatly to

the production of the State. The following table shows the progress of cultivation from period to period during the last 70 years :—

ACREAGE CULTIVATED ANNUALLY, 1855 TO 1925.

Period or Year (ending in March).	Annual Average.		
	Crop.	Fallow.	Total Cultivation.
	acres.	acres.	acres.
1855-65	325,676	12,146	337,822
1865-75	624,377	57,274	681,651
1875-85	1,306,920	137,536	1,444,456
1885-95	2,109,326	364,282	2,473,608
1895-1905	3,022,914	524,197	3,547,111
1905-15	3,756,211	1,276,148	5,032,359
1915-16	5,711,265	1,358,343	7,069,608
1916-17	4,851,335	1,899,559	6,750,894
1917-18	4,110,225	1,672,729	5,782,954
1918-19	3,942,899	1,548,121	5,491,020
1919-20	4,000,815	1,357,536	5,358,351
1920-21	4,489,503	1,935,747	6,425,250
1921-22	4,530,312	2,052,964	6,583,276
1922-23	4,862,548	2,186,881	7,049,429
1923-24	4,682,144	2,294,297	6,976,441
1924-25	4,761,394	2,215,270	6,976,664

Areas under
Principal
Crops.

The principal crops grown in the State are wheat, oats, barley, potatoes and hay. The average annual acreage of these for ten-year periods from 1855 to 1915 and the acreage for each of the last ten seasons are given in the next table :—

ANNUAL ACREAGE OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1855 TO 1925.

Period or Year (ending in March).	Average Annual Area of—				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1855-65	119,001	83,296	4,843	24,123	80,117
1865-75	278,077	129,384	19,262	36,744	117,393
1875-85	776,031	147,343	41,188	39,089	226,775
1885-95	1,236,501	210,901	64,310	48,009	437,087
1895-1905	1,898,280	340,957	52,829	45,243	540,472
1905-15	2,190,336	390,642	60,378	56,272	848,587
1915-16	3,679,971	353,932	61,400	56,910	1,330,455
1916-17	3,125,692	441,598	93,015	73,618	897,186
1917-18	2,690,216	293,214	84,931	66,966	748,808
1918-19	2,214,490	342,867	100,198	51,620	984,479
1919-20	1,918,269	559,547	85,323	53,918	1,116,998
1920-21	2,295,865	443,636	93,954	62,687	1,333,397
1921-22	2,611,198	318,681	100,127	63,895	1,159,135
1922-23	2,644,314	492,356	102,773	61,741	1,261,408
1923-24	2,454,117	520,654	56,564	59,306	1,277,606
1924-25	2,705,323	517,229	63,764	61,295	1,120,312

Production of Principal Crops. The average annual production of the five principal crops for decennial periods, from 1855 to 1915, and the production for each of the last ten seasons were as follows:—

ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1855 to 1925.

Period or Year (ending in March).	Average Annual Production of—				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	tons.	tons.
1855-65 ..	2,198,874	2,068,648	103,575	62,723	111,806
1865-75 ..	4,385,814	2,636,747	390,337	111,800	153,852
1875-85 ..	8,593,308	3,297,468	799,938	135,614	276,771
1885-95 ..	12,268,905	4,649,393	1,187,007	170,905	547,092
1895-1905 ..	14,032,145	6,649,453	947,580	134,357	672,982
1905-15 ..	22,906,743	7,342,468	1,243,442	158,445	1,084,726
1915-16 ..	58,521,706	9,328,894	1,734,511	173,821	2,342,094
1916-17 ..	51,162,438	8,289,289	1,799,784	187,992	1,232,721
1917-18 ..	37,737,552	6,141,287	1,970,650	182,195	949,545
1918-19 ..	25,239,871	5,274,984	2,028,635	137,533	1,113,861
1919-20 ..	14,858,380	6,603,067	1,528,654	145,888	1,242,489
1920-21 ..	39,468,625	10,907,191	2,495,762	171,628	1,984,854
1921-22 ..	43,867,596	6,082,258	2,336,246	173,660	1,548,453
1922-23 ..	35,697,220	8,093,459	2,442,041	148,354	1,665,089
1923-24 ..	37,795,704	9,366,205	1,455,435	238,520	1,541,287
1924-25 ..	47,364,495	9,572,003	1,444,823	139,043	1,492,588

Principal crops in Districts. The percentage in each district of the total area under each principal crop during last season was as given below:—

PERCENTAGE IN EACH DISTRICT OF TOTAL AREA UNDER EACH PRINCIPAL CROP, 1924-25.

District.	Percentage in each District of Area under—					
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Other Crops.
Central	0·49	4·56	31·38	51·64	16·75	30·21
North-Central	0·61	3·49	4·09	18·93	6·23	2·70
Western	1·86	11·90	15·74	13·19	13·84	5·08
Wimmera	27·04	19·89	8·51	0·15	17·30	1·92
Mallee	44·06	34·49	6·43	0·01	18·80	13·59
Northern	23·86	21·22	14·36	0·04	17·30	15·98
North-Eastern	1·65	3·65	1·43	1·80	4·69	7·60
Gippsland	0·43	0·80	18·06	14·24	5·09	22·92

NOTE.—For counties contained in each District, see table on page 517.

The area under the principal crops in proportion to the total area under crop in each district during last season was as follows:—

RELATIVE AREAS DEVOTED TO DIFFERENT CROPS IN EACH DISTRICT, 1924-25.

District.	Percentage of Area under all Crops devoted to—					
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Other Crops.
Central	3.61	6.47	5.48	8.68	51.45	24.31
North-Central	13.15	14.25	2.06	9.16	55.13	6.25
Western	16.75	20.52	3.35	2.70	51.71	4.97
Wimmera	70.38	9.90	0.52	0.01	18.65	0.54
Mallee	73.35	10.98	0.25	0.00	12.96	2.46
Northern	64.22	10.92	0.91	0.60	19.28	4.67
North-Eastern	31.79	13.44	0.65	0.79	37.43	15.90
Gippsland	7.29	2.59	7.18	5.44	35.54	41.96
Total for Victoria ..	56.82	10.86	1.34	1.28	23.54	6.16

NOTE.—For counties contained in each District, see table on page 517.

The area and produce of the principal crops per head of population are given in the next table for each of the last five years:—

AREA AND PRODUCTION OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS PER HEAD OF POPULATION, 1920-21 to 1924-25.

Year ended March—			Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
			Area per Head of Population.				
			acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1921			1.52	.29	.06	.04	.88
1922			1.70	.21	.07	.04	.75
1923			1.67	.31	.07	.04	.80
1924			1.51	.32	.03	.04	.79
1925			1.63	.31	.04	.04	.68
			Produce per Head of Population.				
			bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	tons.	tons.
1921			26.16	7.23	1.65	.11	1.32
1922			28.54	3.96	1.52	.11	1.01
1923			22.61	5.13	1.55	.09	1.05
1924			23.25	5.76	.89	.15	.95
1925			28.58	5.77	.87	.08	.90

Except in the three seasons 1895-6, 1902-3, and 1914-15, the wheat produced during each year since 1870 has been more than sufficient to supply home consumption.

**Values of
five principal
crops.**

The following table gives the annual value of each of the five principal crops, based upon prices realized upon farms, also the value of each crop per acre for each of the last five years.

VALUES OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS.

Year.	Annual Value of—				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	£	£	£	£	£
1920-21	14,307,377	1,295,229	447,352	586,458	5,259,863
1921-22	10,509,945	931,346	401,600	555,111	4,413,091
1922-23	8,031,875	1,416,355	436,235	1,040,662	6,327,338
1923-24	8,189,069	1,455,331	262,210	701,229	5,229,162
1924-25	11,993,546	934,538	354,006	682,878	3,639,496
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Value per acre 1920-21	6 4 8	2 18 5	4 15 3	9 7 1	3 18 11
„ „ 1921-22	4 0 6	2 18 5	4 0 3	8 13 9	3 16 2
„ „ 1922-23	3 0 9	2 17 6	4 4 11	16 17 1	5 0 4
„ „ 1923-24	3 6 9	2 15 11	4 12 9	11 16 6	4 1 10
„ „ 1924-25	4 8 8	1 16 2	5 11 0	11 2 10	3 5 0

The value of the five principal crops was £17,604,464 in 1924-25, as against £15,837,001 in 1923-24, £17,252,465 in 1922-23, £16,811,093 in 1921-22 and £21,896,279 in 1920-21.

**Wheat
production.**

On the experience of the last five seasons the area under wheat for grain represented 54 per cent. of the total under all crops. The acreage, the total production, and the yield

per acre are given in the next table for decennial periods from 1860 to 1920, and for each of the last five seasons :—

WHEAT PRODUCTION, 1860 TO 1925.

Period or Season (ending in March).	Annual Average.		
	Area under Crop.	Production.	Yield per Acre.
	acres.	bushels.	bushels.
1860-70	194,714	3,480,765	17·87
1870-80	431,444	5,510,125	12·77
1880-90	1,077,575	10,793,936	10·02
1890-1900	1,563,403	12,610,595	8·07
1900-10	1,983,874	19,242,402	9·70
1910-20	2,570,540	30,632,514	11·92
1921	2,295,865	39,468,625	17·19
1922	2,611,198	43,867,596	16·80
1923	2,644,314	35,697,220	13·50
1924	2,454,117	37,795,704	15·40
1925	2,705,323	47,364,495	17·51

Although a large area in districts of limited rainfall has been brought under cultivation for wheat growing during late years, the yield per acre for the State on the average of the last fifteen seasons was 13·29 bushels, which is better than the corresponding averages for decennial periods of earlier date back to 1870. This satisfactory result is largely due to the use of more prolific varieties of seed and to the more general practice of fallowing and fertilizing. In addition to the area shown for grain, 87,312 acres of wheat were cut for hay last season, so that the total area under wheat in 1924-25 was 2,792,635 acres.

The production of wheat in the other Australian States in 1924-25 was as follows :—New South Wales, 59,785,000 bushels; South Australia, 30,528,625 bushels; Western Australia, 23,887,397 bushels; Queensland, 2,779,829 bushels; and Tasmania, 231,388 bushels. The total production for the Commonwealth was 164,576,734 bushels.

Wheat
growing in
counties.

The principal wheat growing areas are the Wimmera, Mallee, and Northern districts. Although other districts provide only small proportions of the total area they are not to be regarded as unsuitable for wheat growing, as their average yield per acre is usually greater than in the areas mentioned. The production of wheat in different counties for each of the last three seasons is shown in the following table:—

WHEAT YIELDS IN COUNTIES FOR THE LAST THREE SEASONS.

Districts and Counties.	Year ended March.								
	Area.			Produce.			Average per Acre.		
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bush.	bush.	bush.
Central—									
Bourke ..	3,598	3,438	4,633	69,281	66,877	92,337	19·26	19·45	19·93
Grant ..	6,628	5,812	8,106	120,755	107,589	145,297	18·22	18·51	17·92
Mornington ..	396	433	319	7,429	7,828	5,302	18·76	18·08	16·62
Evelyn ..	108	107	99	1,959	2,155	1,699	18·14	20·14	17·16
North-Central—									
Anglesey ..	768	1,152	1,198	12,486	23,952	20,143	16·26	20·79	16·81
Dalhousie ..	2,224	2,051	2,622	39,904	32,917	45,135	17·94	16·05	17·21
Talbot ..	9,085	6,389	12,820	148,533	99,560	263,480	16·35	15·58	20·55
Western—									
Grenville ..	12,473	3,889	4,562	186,168	53,507	72,130	14·93	13·76	15·81
Polwarth ..	78	18	49	1,025	371	532	13·14	20·61	10·86
Heytesbury ..	4	..	4	46	..	49	11·50	..	12·25
Hampden ..	14,367	9,037	9,821	263,621	133,450	173,857	18·35	14·77	17·70
Ripon ..	55,351	37,736	31,852	1,085,819	578,469	616,983	19·62	15·33	19·37
Villiers ..	2,097	397	861	32,907	6,278	15,449	15·69	15·81	17·94
Normanby ..	1,225	642	752	21,254	11,610	11,965	17·35	18·08	15·91
Dundas ..	4,730	1,965	2,302	73,606	22,353	33,726	15·56	11·38	14·65
Follett ..	540	77	44	8,357	976	809	15·48	12·68	18·16
Wimmera—									
Lowan ..	186,281	136,167	173,652	3,942,804	2,380,800	3,972,195	21·17	17·48	22·87
Borong ..	402,825	379,007	408,387	9,151,897	8,962,260	10,713,127	22·72	23·65	26·23
Kara Kara ..	145,521	121,129	149,441	2,783,428	2,191,925	3,377,400	19·12	18·10	22·60
Mallee—									
Millewa ..	2,435	1,491	6,378	7,884	16,735	11,826	3·24	11·22	18·54
Weeah ..	197,049	188,167	175,260	1,725,094	1,973,614	1,968,002	8·75	10·49	11·23
Karkaroc ..	572,498	589,959	628,200	4,661,460	7,293,987	6,984,439	8·14	12·36	11·12
Tatchera ..	370,377	371,662	382,258	2,743,941	4,836,528	4,712,863	7·41	13·01	12·33
Northern—									
Gunbower ..	35,891	30,425	37,240	384,385	382,809	622,473	10·71	12·58	16·72
Gladstone ..	115,209	85,075	120,587	1,089,102	1,111,661	2,614,400	14·66	13·07	21·68
Bendigo ..	121,520	94,627	125,790	1,529,560	1,307,436	2,359,618	12·59	13·82	18·76
Rodney ..	80,371	70,261	85,052	1,104,218	1,031,530	1,725,647	13·65	14·68	20·29
Moir ..	254,931	267,824	276,738	3,145,685	4,320,837	5,854,344	12·34	16·13	21·15
North-Eastern—									
Delatite ..	8,129	6,726	8,005	136,692	124,759	119,831	16·82	18·55	14·97
Bogong ..	29,646	29,857	36,305	441,893	471,081	606,930	14·91	15·78	16·72
Benambra ..	205	332	293	3,570	8,290	5,022	17·41	25·00	17·14
Wonnangatta ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gippsland—									
Croajingolong ..	51	39	..	752	754	..	14·75	19·33	..
Tambo ..	43	37	53	767	806	1,186	17·84	21·78	22·38
Dargo ..	167	238	332	3,672	7,515	5,794	21·99	31·58	17·45
Tanjil ..	6,121	7,279	10,523	150,295	212,718	196,734	24·55	29·22	18·70
Bulu Bulu ..	872	672	785	16,971	11,707	13,771	19·46	17·42	17·54
Total ..	2,644,314	2,454,117	2,705,323	35,697,220	37,795,704	47,364,495	13·50	15·40	17·51

The table which follows gives the average yield of wheat per acre in the principal wheat growing counties for each of the last ten years :—

**AVERAGE YIELD OF WHEAT PER ACRE IN WHEAT
GROWING COUNTIES, 1915-16 to 1924-25.**

District and County.	Average Yield of Wheat per Acre (in Bushels) during Year ended March—									
	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Western District—										
Ripon	21.58	13.33	13.27	10.06	16.26	21.74	19.63	19.62	15.33	19.37
Wimmera District—										
Lowan	16.78	17.93	16.52	15.78	13.47	20.94	21.53	21.17	17.48	22.87
Borong	19.27	22.49	22.62	20.01	15.76	23.79	23.05	22.72	23.65	26.23
Kara Kara ..	19.36	19.66	17.68	14.39	14.10	21.25	22.05	19.12	18.10	22.60
Mallee District—										
Weeah	12.26	14.56	10.21	6.38	3.43	14.28	8.89	8.75	10.49	11.23
Karkaroc ..	10.62	14.78	10.94	7.15	3.29	13.42	10.88	8.14	12.36	11.12
Tatchera ..	10.09	15.80	12.30	9.44	4.60	13.65	13.13	7.41	13.01	12.33
Northern District—										
Gunbower ..	15.33	15.89	14.23	8.74	8.96	15.27	15.76	10.71	12.58	16.72
Gladstone ..	17.94	19.10	14.17	11.52	12.08	18.72	18.65	14.66	13.07	21.68
Bendigo	19.18	17.11	13.85	11.33	9.30	14.56	17.25	12.59	13.82	18.76
Rodney	20.15	14.69	12.67	10.80	6.85	15.79	15.77	13.65	14.68	20.29
Molra	17.88	14.44	11.38	10.70	4.79	17.46	16.83	12.34	16.13	21.15
Total State ..	159.0	16.37	14.03	11.40	7.75	17.19	16.80	13.50	15.40	17.51

**Varieties of
Wheat.**

Australian wheat is noted for its hard, white, and dry qualities, and, on account of the whiteness of the flour made therefrom, it is much sought after by oversea millers for the purpose of mixing with other wheats.

Enquiries in regard to the area sown under each variety of wheat for the 1925-26 season were made with the view of ascertaining the varieties most in favour among Victorian growers, and of enabling the Agricultural Department to advise growers as to the most suitable varieties to grow in a particular district.

An analysis of the replies of the growers who supplied the information is given in the appended table :—

VARIETIES OF WHEAT SOWN IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF THE STATE, 1925-26.

Districts.	Wheat.					
	Variety (according to acreage).					
	Federation.	Currawa.	Major.	Yandilla King.	Penny.	Bald's Early.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Central ..	10.50	9.70	30.70	2.60	..	..
North-Central ..	30.79	1.50	13.13	4.69	..	..
Western ..	56.50	..	8.67	2.42	3.40	..
Wimmera ..	72.03	0.97	3.88	0.72	3.98	1.16
Mallee ..	17.49	23.10	5.23	7.39	5.63	5.12
Northern ..	60.49	1.02	20.56	2.58	1.36	1.44
North-Eastern ..	29.70	7.49	19.15	2.72	2.95	..
Gippsland ..	3.81	6.06	75.70	..	8.82	..
Percentage of total area ..	43.38	10.69	9.61	4.14	3.97	2.85
	Gluyas.	Mac's White.	Ruff's Imp.	Dollar.	Other.	Total.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Central ..	..	..	..	..	46.50	100.00
North-Central ..	..	1.90	..	..	47.99	100.00
Western ..	..	..	..	2.01	27.00	100.00
Wimmera ..	..	..	7.64	2.02	7.60	100.00
Mallee ..	6.52	5.60	..	2.27	21.65	100.00
Northern ..	..	..	..	..	12.55	100.00
North-Eastern ..	..	..	..	..	37.99	100.00
Gippsland ..	..	..	0.18	..	5.43	100.00
Percentage of total area ..	2.79	2.41	2.21	1.70	16.25	100.00

In all, over 120 varieties of wheat were sown. The number of these which were tried in the Mallee greatly exceeded the number experimented with in any other district. If a more detailed list is required for any district it can be obtained on application to the Government Statist.

**Wheat
standard.**

The weight of an imperial bushel of wheat is 60 lbs., but the actual weight of a bushel of Victorian wheat of the fair average quality standard annually fixed by the Chamber of Commerce was 61·10 lbs. on the average of the last ten years. The following statement shows the variation in the f.a.q. standard weight of a bushel of Victorian wheat for each season since 1914-15 :—

F.A.Q. WHEAT STANDARD, 1916 TO 1925.

Season ended March—			Weight of Bushel (f.a.q.).	Season ended March—			Weight of Bushel (f.a.q.).
			lbs.				lbs.
1916	..	..	61	1921	..	..	60½
1917	..	..	60½	1922	..	...	60
1918	..	..	60	1923	..	..	61¼
1919	..	..	62½	1924	..	..	61
1920	..	..	62	1925	..	..	62½

**Stocks of
wheat and
flour.**

It is estimated that about 11,000,000 bushels of wheat are required locally for food and seed. The stocks of wheat and flour in the State on 31st October, 1925, and on 30th June, 1922, and at the same date in each of the previous eight years, were as follows :—

WHEAT AND FLOUR ON HAND, 1914 TO 1925.

Year.				Quantity in Bushels.		
				Wheat.	Flour (equivalent in Wheat).	Total.
1914	..	..	..	8,002,311	940,138	8,942,449
1915	..	..	..	582,448	510,300	1,092,748
1916	..	..	..	42,578,379	519,162	43,097,541
1917	..	..	..	63,852,078	1,078,875	64,930,953
1918	..	..	..	70,031,000	1,658,000	71,689,000
1919	..	..	..	53,023,000	3,284,000	56,307,000
1920	..	..	..	11,780,159	4,861,000	16,641,159
1921	..	..	..	14,883,400	800,000	15,683,400
1922	..	..	..	5,065,600	883,150	5,948,750
1923	Not collected	..	}	..	..	..
1924				..	..	..
1925	..	..	..	1,446,240	2,955,640	4,401,880

Oats.

In 1924-25 the area harvested for oats in Victoria was 517,229 acres, from which a yield of 9,572,003 bushels was obtained, giving an average of 18·51 bushels to the acre. The appended statement shows the harvest results for this crop for each of the last ten seasons, and for ten-year periods prior thereto back to 1865 :—

OATS GROWN, 1865 TO 1925.

Period or Year (ending in March).	Annual Average.		
	Area under Crop.	Produce.	Average per Acre.
	acres.	bushels.	bushels.
1865-75	129,384	2,636,747	20·38
1875-85	147,343	3,297,468	22·38
1885-95	210,901	4,649,393	22·05
1895-1905	340,957	6,649,453	19·50
1905-15	390,643	7,342,468	18·79
1916	353,932	9,328,894	26·36
1917	441,598	8,289,289	18·77
1918	293,214	6,141,287	20·94
1919	342,867	5,274,984	15·38
1920	559,547	6,603,067	11·80
1921	443,636	10,907,191	24·59
1922	318,681	6,082,258	19·09
1923	492,356	8,093,459	16·44
1924	520,654	9,366,205	17·99
1925	517,229	9,572,003	18·51

In addition to the area for grain shown for last season there were 1,000,382 acres of oats cut for hay, so that the total area sown with oats in 1924-25 was 1,517,611 acres. During 1924-25 there were exported from Victoria to overseas countries 162,115 bushels of oats and 17,384 lbs. of oatmeal.

Varieties of Oats.

Enquiries in regard to the different kinds of oats sown for the 1925-26 season showed that, of those growers who supplied the information, 89 per cent. planted principally Algerian, and 10 per cent. Mortgage Lifter oats; the principal kinds planted by the remaining 1 per cent. of growers included nine varieties.

Barley. The area under barley in 1924-25 was 63,764 acres, of which 42,217 were under malting, and 21,547 under other barley. The figures in the subjoined table show the acreage, production, and yield per acre, for each of the last five years :—

CULTIVATION OF BARLEY, 1920-21 to 1924-25.

Year ended March—	Area under Crop.		Produce.		Average per Acre.		
	Malting.	Other.	Malting.	Other.	Malting.	Other.	Total.
	acres.	acres.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
1921 ..	50,297	43,657	1,306,210	1,189,552	25·97	27·25	26·56
1922 ..	47,686	52,441	1,103,039	1,233,207	23·13	23·52	23·33
1923 ..	64,648	38,125	1,525,744	916,297	23·60	24·03	23·76
1924 ..	39,588	16,976	1,037,144	418,291	26·20	24·64	25·73
1925 ..	42,217	21,547	971,532	473,291	23·01	21·97	22·66

During 1924-25, 1,703,917 bushels of barley were used locally in the production of 1,648,690 bushels of malt.

Potatoes. The area planted with potatoes in 1924-25 was 61,295 acres, and the production was 139,043 tons, which represented a yield of 2·27 tons per acre, as compared with 4·02 tons in the previous season and 2·40 tons in 1922-23. The following table shows the potato returns for the last thirty-five years :—

POTATO PRODUCTION, 1890 to 1925.

Period or Year (ending in June).				Annual Average.		
				Area under Crop.	Produce.	Average per Acre.
				acres.	tons.	tons.
1890-1900 .. ..	..	..	..	47,738	155,432	3·26
1900-10 .. ..	..	..	..	48,857	142,307	2·91
1910-20 .. ..	..	..	..	60,127	166,677	2·77
1921 .. ..	..	..	..	62,687	171,628	2·74
1922 .. ..	..	..	..	63,895	173,660	2·72
1923 .. ..	..	..	..	61,741	148,354	2·40
1924 .. ..	..	..	..	59,306	238,520	4·02
1925 .. ..	..	..	..	61,295	139,043	2·27

The estimated value of the potatoes produced last season was £682,878, as against £701,229 in 1923-24, £1,040,662 in 1922-23, £555,111 in 1921-22, and £586,458 in 1920-21.

Hay. In 1925 the production of hay amounted to 1,492,588 tons, as against 1,541,287 tons in 1924, 1,665,089 tons in 1923, 1,548,453 tons in 1922, and 1,984,854 tons in 1921. The quantity of straw returned for the season 1924-25 was 44,614 tons as against 44,451 tons for the previous year. The hay returns for decennial

periods from 1890 to 1920, and each of the last five seasons, are shown in the table which follows :—

HAY PRODUCTION, 1890 TO 1925.

Period or Year (ending in March).				Annual Average.		
				Area cut for Hay.	Produce.	Average per Acre.
				acres.	tons.	tons.
1890-1900	..	..	..	467,668	576,618	1·23
1900-10	..	..	..	664,387	894,108	1·35
1910-20	..	..	..	984,797	1,269,767	1·29
1921	..	..	..	1,333,397	1,984,854	1·49
1922	..	..	..	1,159,135	1,548,453	1·34
1923	..	..	..	1,261,408	1,665,089	1·32
1924	..	..	..	1,277,606	1,541,287	1·21
1925	..	..	..	1,120,312	1,492,588	1·33

The estimated value of the hay crop was £3,639,496 for 1925, as compared with £5,229,162 for 1924, £6,327,338 for 1923, £4,413,091 for 1922, and £5,259,863 for 1921. Of the total hay produced in 1925, 1,318,230 tons were eaten, 119,918 tons were wheaten, and 54,440 tons were made from lucerne and other crops; the yields per acre of these varieties of hay were 1·32, 1·37, and 1·67 tons respectively.

Information is obtained direct from growers, in February or March of each year, in regard to the prices of the leading agricultural products other than the main crop of potatoes, the price of which is ascertained in June or July. The following table gives the average price of each product for each of the last ten years :—

PRICES OF PRODUCE, 1915 TO 1925.

Year.		Average Price in February and March.						
		Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.		Hay.	Potatoes.	
				Malting.	Other.		Early Crop.	Main Crop (after March).
		per bushel.	per bushel.	per bushel.	per bushel.	per ton.	per ton.	per ton.
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1916	..	3 9	2 0½	3 11½	2 10	35 0	201 0	106 0
1917	..	4 0	2 0	3 11½	2 10	33 0	114 0	53 0
1918	..	4 0	3 1½	4 2½	3 4½	59 0	79 0	55 0
1919	..	4 9	4 5½	5 0½	3 11¾	83 0	210 0	149 0
1920	..	7 8½	5 7½	6 7½	5 8	134 0	219 0	178 0
1921	..	7 3	2 4½	4 0½	3 1	53 0	101 0	64 0
1922	..	4 9½	3 0¾	4 0½	2 11	57 0	94 0	60 0
1923	..	4 6	3 6	3 11	3 0	76 0	170 0	136 0
1924	..	4 3	3 1½	3 9½	3 2½	72 0	111 0	53 0
1925	..	5 0¾	1 11½	5 3¾	4 0½	48 9	121 0	94 0

NOTE.—Prior to 1925, only freight and handling charges were deducted; but, for that year, the cost for bags and seed were also deducted from the F.O.B. charges.

Other Crops. The area under other than principal crops and the production since March, 1922, are shown in the subjoined table:—

OTHER THAN PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1922-23 TO 1924-25.

Crop.	Area.	Production.	Area.	Production.	Area.	Production.
	1922-23.		1923-24.		1924-25.	
	acres.	bushels.	acres.	bushels.	acres.	bushels.
Maize.. ..	25,846	879,915	29,104	1,464,731	23,126	891,987
Rye	1,291	15,718	899	11,151	1,029	13,000
Peas	11,149	214,544	11,216	233,047	11,759	256,160
		tons.		tons.		tons.
Mangel-wurzel ..	684	8,120	854	13,569	736	10,022
Beet, Carrots, Parsnips and Turnips	433	1,878	538	4,222	238	1,847
Onions	6,954	44,409	4,714	31,683	4,504	26,555
Green Forage ..	102,451	..	107,371	..	99,531	..
Grass and Clover Seeds ..	1,468	bushels. 7,859	1,306	bushels. 6,466	1,424	bushels. 8,597
Hops	194	cwt. 2,071	224	cwt. 2,481	269	cwt. 4,240
Tobacco	890	4,151	1,047	1,165	1,228	†
Vines—Grapes	38,892	1,879,964	42,599	2,707,729	42,467	2,142,349
		435 fibre		..		800 seed.
		1,725 seed		..		straw
Flax	590	25 tow	Nil	..	130	awaiting
		..		..		treat-
Gardens and Orchards ..	86,014	..	85,570	..	85,358	ment.
Minor Crops ..	9,082	..	12,237*	..	7,052*	..
Land in Fallow	2,186,881	..	2,294,297	..	2,215,270	..
Artificial Grasses	957,454	..	938,547	..	843,095	..

* For details see page 533.

† Not available.

Maize. The area under maize for grain in 1924-25 was 23,126 acres, and the production was 891,987 bushels, which represented a yield of 38·57 bushels per acre, as compared with 50·33 bushels in 1923-24, 34·04 bushels in 1922-23, 40·99 bushels in 1921-22, and 44·14 bushels in 1920-21. Of the total production for last season 89 per cent. was obtained from the Gippsland district. The area, total production, and produce per acre are given in the next

table for each of the last five seasons and for periods prior thereto back to 1890 :—

MAIZE PRODUCTION, 1890 to 1925.

Period or Year (ending in June).	Annual Average.		
	Area under Maize for Grain.	Production.	Produce per Acre.
	acres.	bushels.	bushels.
1890-1900	8,688	452,907	52·13
1900-10	12,082	716,158	59·27
1910-20	20,811	922,461	44·33
1921	24,149	1,065,880	44·14
1922	23,227	951,960	40·99
1923	25,846	879,915	34·04
1924	29,104	1,464,731	50·33
1925	23,126	891,987	38·57

On the average of the last five seasons the yield per acre was 41·9 bushels, as against 45·0 in 1910-15, and 65·4 in 1900-05. The relatively light yield per acre for the latest five-year period was probably due to the cultivation of new areas, which are less fertile than the rich river flats upon which this cereal was grown exclusively in earlier periods.

Rye. The area under rye in 1924-25 was 1,029 acres, from which 13,000 bushels of grain were obtained. The production was 11,151 bushels in 1923-24, 15,718 bushels in 1922-23, 14,442 bushels in 1921-22, and 21,359 bushels in 1920-21. Rye was grown principally in the counties of Delatite, Grant, and Talbot last season. The area under this crop in the three counties mentioned was about 56 per cent. of the total for the whole State.

Peas. The area under peas in 1924-25 was 11,759 acres, and the return, 256,160 bushels, there being a slight increase in each case on the figures for the previous year. Last season peas were grown to some extent in all districts with the exception of the Mallee. The counties from which the largest returns were obtained and the yields of these counties were as follows :—Grant, 87,993 bushels; Bourke, 38,666 bushels; Tanjil, 23,828 bushels; Buln Buln, 18,848 bushels; Talbot, 11,589 bushels; and Mornington, 11,242 bushels. The production of peas in the six counties mentioned was equal to 75 per cent. of the total for the whole State.

Mangel-wurzel. In 1924-25 there were 736 acres under mangel-wurzel, as against 854 in 1923-24, 684 in 1922-23, 560 in 1921-22, 524 in 1920-21, 547 in 1919-20, and 581 in 1918-19. The production last year was 10,022 tons, as compared with an annual average of 8,517 tons for the preceding five-year period. Mangolds are grown principally in the Gippsland, Western, and Central districts.

Beet, carrots, parsnips, and turnips. The cultivation of beet, carrots, parsnips, and turnips, exclusive of those grown in market gardens, showed a decrease in area as compared with the previous season. In 1924-25 the extent of land sown was 238 acres, as against 538 in

1923-24, 433 in 1922-23, 401 in 1921-22, and 410 in 1920-21. The produce for last year was 1,847 tons, as compared with 4,222 in 1923-24, 1,878 in 1922-23, 2,134 in 1921-22, and 2,289 in 1920-21.

Onions. Onions are grown in nearly every county south of the Dividing Range. The returns for last season show that in Grenville the yield was 8,392 tons from 1,177 acres; in Bourke, 4,369 tons from 636 acres; in Villiers, 3,691 tons from 643 acres; in Polwarth, 2,971 tons from 480 acres; in Grant, 2,931 tons from 625 acres; in Buln Buln, 2,881 tons from 681 acres; and, in Mornington, 1,077 tons from 218 acres. The following statement shows the area and yield for each of the last five years:—

ONION CULTIVATION, 1920-21 to 1924-25.

Year.					Area.	Produce.
					acres.	tons.
1920-21	..	..	..	..	8,000	42,985
1921-22	..	..	..	..	6,158	31,586
1922-23	..	..	..	..	6,954	44,409
1923-24	..	..	..	..	4,714	31,683
1924-25	..	..	..	..	4,504	26,555

The value of onions grown was £209,803 in 1924-25, as compared with £215,444 in 1923-24, £139,888 in 1922-23, £150,033 in 1921-22, and £131,104 in 1920-21.

Green forage. The area devoted to green forage in 1924-25 was 99,531 acres, 107,371 in 1923-24, 102,451 in 1922-23, 89,410 in 1921-22, 79,524 in 1920-21, and 89,802 in 1919-20.

Ensilage. The practice of preserving forage in a green state has existed in Victoria for many years, but only a small number of farmers have adopted it. The returns for the last five seasons are given in the next table:—

ENSILAGE RETURNS, 1920-21 to 1924-25.

Year ended March—					Number of Farms on which made.	Number of Silos (Pits and Stacks).	Materials used.
							tons.
1921	..	..	..	..	99	175	9,702
1922	..	..	..	..	107	141	5,873
1923	..	..	..	..	103	138	5,674
1924	..	..	..	..	61	88	3,649
1925	..	..	..	..	106	149	6,667

Grass and clover seed. The area harvested for grass and clover seed last season was 1,424 acres, as compared with 1,306 in 1923-24, 1,468 in 1922-23, 1,800 in 1921-22, and 1,872 in 1920-21. The production in 1924-25 was 8,597 bushels, as against 6,466 in 1923-24, 7,859 in 1922-23, 12,226 in 1921-22, and 11,555 in 1920-21.

Hops. The hop-growing industry attained its maximum development in 1883-4, when 1,758 acres yielded 15,717 cwt. In 1924-25 the return from 269 acres was 4,240 cwt. Delatite, Bogong, Bourke, Polwarth, and Buln Buln were the only counties in which hops were grown last season.

Flax. No flax was sown during the year 1923-24, but the Commonwealth Flax Committee, now wound up, supplied to Drysdale farmers seed for sowing in the 1924-25 season. An area of 130 acres was sown, the resultant harvest of which will be treated by a private company. Particulars of the crop for each of the last five years are given in the following statement:—

FLAX, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Year.	Area under Crop.	Seed Produced.	Fibre Produced.	Tow Produced.	Straw awaiting Treatment.
	acres.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	tons.
1920-21	1,350	3,658	938	99	662
1921-22	1,640	4,187	440	20	960
1922-23	590	1,725	435	25	..
1923-24	Nil	..	..	..	..
1924-25	130	800	17	3	130

NOTE.—For particulars of New Zealand flax, not included in above statement, *vide* page 533.

In 1924-25 imports into Victoria from countries outside Australia included linseed to the value of £112,299, linseed oil worth £63,966, and fibre worth £209,760.

Tobacco. Tobacco production reached its maximum in 1880-1, when 17,333 cwt. of dry leaf was produced. Subsequent years were marked by great variations in area and produce, but since 1920-21 increasing areas have been devoted to the industry. The area devoted to this product last year was 1,228 acres, of which 576 were in Delatite, and 480 in Bogong. Particulars relating to the cultivation of tobacco for each of the last five years are as follows:—

CULTIVATION OF TOBACCO, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Year.	Area.	Produce.
	acres.	cwt. (dry).
1920-21	95	908
1921-22	604	3,735
1922-23	890	4,151
1923-24	1,047	1,165
1924-25	1,228	†

† Not available.

Vine Production.

During the period 1904-15 the area under vines decreased by 6,712 acres, or by nearly 24 per cent., and the number of growers decreased by 521, or by 23 per cent. Since 1915 there has been a fairly large increase in the area and the number of growers. Vineyards are distributed fairly well over the State, and there are certain districts where the principal industries are connected with vine-growing. The Shire of Mildura produced last season 1,640,375 cwt. of grapes; Swan Hill, 317,891 cwt.; Rutherglen, 95,517 cwt.; Rodney, 13,558 cwt.; and Stawell, 12,813 cwt. At Mildura the crop is principally dried for raisins and currants. The results of five years' operations are given below :—

VINE PRODUCTION, 1921 TO 1925.

Year ended June—	Number of Growers.	Area.	Produce.				
			Grapes gathered.	Wine made.	Raisins made.		Currants made.
					Lexias.	Sultanas.	
		acres.	cwt.	gallons.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
1921 ..	2,066	29,255	1,072,767	2,222,305	33,150	83,737	62,919
1922 ..	2,422	33,175	1,314,839	1,335,066	49,080	141,371	75,042
1923 ..	2,775	38,892	1,879,964	1,717,490	67,850	217,670	98,081
1924 ..	3,047	42,599	2,707,729	2,177,127	71,993	366,834	150,867
1925 ..	2,999	42,467	2,142,349	1,368,765	70,695	296,304	104,948

Of the total quantity of grapes gathered in 1925, 216,390 cwt. were used for making wine and spirits, 1,872,514 cwt. for raisins and currants, and 53,445 cwt. for table consumption and export. Of the 296,304 cwt. of sultanas made, 237,226 cwt. were from Mildura, and 57,688 cwt. from Swan Hill.

Raisins are produced in Victoria upon a scale far in excess of the State's requirements. It is estimated that a year's consumption of raisins is about 88,000 cwt.; consequently, about 280,000 cwt. of the production in 1925 were available for interstate or oversea export. A year's consumption of currants is about 30,000 cwt., which would enable approximately 75,000 cwt. of last season's production to be exported to other States or oversea.

Orchards. The total number of persons in the State growing fruit for sale was 7,414 in 1924-25, as against 7,387 in 1923-24, 7,758 in 1922-23, 8,286 in 1921-22, and 7,705 in 1920-21. The area under orchards in each of those years was 83,369, 83,469, 83,880, 86,959, and 84,718 acres respectively. The orchards are distributed fairly evenly over the whole State. The counties having the largest

areas last season were as follows :—Mornington, 14,599 acres; Bourke, 13,259 acres; Evelyn, 13,206 acres; Rodney, 10,129 acres; Moira, 7,665 acres; Talbot, 3,981 acres; and Bendigo, 3,513 acres.

The following is a statement of the number of bearing and non-bearing fruit trees and plants for the seasons 1919-20 and 1922-23 :—

RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF FRUIT TREES, PLANTS, ETC., IN ORCHARDS AND GARDENS WHERE FRUIT WAS GROWN FOR SALE, 1919-20 AND 1922-23.

Fruit.	Number of Trees, Plants, &c.					
	1919-20.			1922-23.		
	Not Bearing.	Bearing.	Total.	Not Bearing.	Bearing.	Total.
Apples ..	1,006,728	2,016,972	3,023,700	854,643	2,302,089	3,156,732
Pears ..	416,608	660,913	1,077,521	360,403	729,775	1,090,178
Quinces ..	53,639	76,377	130,016	33,041	72,316	105,357
Plums ..	184,909	369,784	554,693	153,020	368,355	521,375
Cherries ..	45,742	196,110	241,852	33,802	182,093	215,895
Peaches ..	332,001	750,834	1,082,835	341,485	778,650	1,120,135
Apricots ..	121,995	331,627	453,622	130,114	349,242	479,356
Nectarines ..	3,023	15,698	18,721	1,645	15,295	16,940
Oranges ..	147,105	240,297	387,402	224,117	279,146	503,263
Lemons ..	72,994	82,472	155,466	96,207	100,544	196,751
Loquats ..	1,778	4,202	5,980	1,138	3,337	4,475
Medlars ..	86	106	192	27	55	82
Figs ..	14,663	29,667	44,330	7,069	29,149	36,218
Guavas ..	61	134	195	92	182	274
Pomegranates ..	39	89	128	243	107	350
Persimmons ..	319	403	722	427	384	811
Total Large Fruits ..	2,401,690	4,775,685	7,177,375	2,237,473	5,210,719	7,448,192
Raspberries ..	..	316,498	316,498	..	308,647	308,647
Loganberries ..	..	158,431	158,431	..	139,084	139,084
Strawberries ..	..	2,148,044	2,148,044	..	2,432,038	2,432,038
Gooseberries ..	..	323,037	323,037	29,418	185,922	215,340
Mulberries ..	326	1,133	1,459	355	901	1,256
Olives ..	310	2,372	2,682	208	1,577	1,785
Currents (Red, White, and Black) ..	9,033	27,707	36,740	6,939	29,779	36,718
Passion-fruit ..	19,902	26,969	46,871	27,133	41,148	68,281
Almonds ..	9,423	20,378	29,801	9,792	21,987	31,779
Walnuts ..	7,812	4,819	12,631	7,019	5,223	12,242
Filberts ..	288	804	1,092	246	628	874
Chestnuts ..	269	380	649	262	692	954
Total Nuts ..	17,792	26,381	44,173	17,319	28,530	45,849

The area of orchards growing fruit for sale in 1924-25—83,369 acres—showed a reduction of 100 acres as compared with the area for the previous year. Details of the produce from such orchards in the last five years are given in the subjoined statement :—

**ORCHARDS GROWING FRUIT FOR SALE, 1920-21
TO 1924-25.**

Year ended March—	Number of Fruit-growers.	Area of Gardens and Orchards.	LARGE FRUITS GATHERED.				
			Apples.	Pears.	Quinces.	Plums.	Cherries.
		acres.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
1921	7,705	84,718	1,451,069	759,148	63,194	297,055	81,619
1922	8,286	86,959	1,768,800	681,024	76,946	207,432	66,969
1923	7,758	83,880	2,089,017	666,631	63,837	258,117	92,407
1924	7,387	83,469	1,663,308	858,611	76,167	241,818	63,662
1925	7,414	83,369	2,233,230	910,915	81,160	308,638	51,299

Large Fruits Gathered—continued.

	Peaches.	Apricots.	Oranges.	Lemons.	Figs.	Nectarines.	Passion.	Other.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
1921	728,272	251,996	169,335	87,867	23,386	17,431	10,775	4,818
1922	905,477	208,215	237,949	103,127	22,359	20,047	16,759	7,091
1923	966,952	290,876	259,330	109,347	15,313	14,749	16,066	1,431
1924	938,908	352,604	210,595	95,443	27,772	14,649	15,986	3,942
1925	990,683	350,778	*	*	25,658	16,545	30,866	1,211

* As the season for citrus fruits ends later than that for other fruits details are not yet available.

ORCHARDS GROWING FRUIT FOR SALE, 1920-21 TO 1924-25—
continued.

Year ended March—	SMALL FRUITS GATHERED.					NUTS GATHERED.			
	Rasp-berries.	Straw-berries.	Goose-berries.	Currants, Black, Red, & White.	Other	Almonds.	Walnuts.	Filberts.	Chest-nuts.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1921 ..	3,105	3,024	6,388	399	6,239	32,519	16,557	374	12,947
1922 ..	3,112	2,784	5,543	378	4,940	72,006	33,452	1,504	13,104
1923 ..	2,682	3,321	5,243	401	5,236	74,588	43,064	1,031	10,713
1924 ..	2,160	3,831	3,657	283	3,046	76,905	29,665	964	6,190
1925 ..	3,665	5,856	4,281	355	6,980*	70,217	23,199	615	14,469

* Including 4,527 cwt. of loganberries, and 2,262 cwt. of blackberries.

The following return shows the average produce per bearing tree for the seasons 1913-14, 1916-17, 1919-20, and 1922-23:—

PRODUCE OF FRUIT TREES.

Fruit Trees.	AVERAGE PER BEARING TREE.			
	1913-14.	1916-17.	1919-20.	1922-23.
	bushels	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
Apples ..	1·03	·34	1·10	·91
Pears ..	1·07	1·14	1·10	·91
Quinces ..	1·03	1·11	1·26	·88
Plums ..	·83	·65	·74	·70
Cherries ..	·80	·17	·46	·51
Peaches ..	1·02	1·35	1·28	1·24
Apricots ..	1·21	·78	·91	·83
Nectarines ..	1·18	1·41	1·53	·96
Oranges ..	1·16	·59	·57	·93
Lemons ..	1·49	1·11	·90	1·09
Loquats ..	·24	·29	·52	·34
Medlars ..	·29	·07	·28	·20
Figs ..	·85	·87	·65	·53
Passion Vines ..	·75	·44	·65	·39
Guavas ..	·02	·42	·24	·13
Pomegranates ..	·54	·32	·31	·17
Persimmons ..	·68	·82	·69	·61
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Almonds ..	4·87	2·51	3·70	3·39
Walnuts ..	5·35	1·34	10·68	8·25
Filberts ..	·56	3·60	2·00	1·64
Chestnuts ..	18·94	26·66	33·45	15·48

In addition to the fruits shown, large quantities of melons, rhubarb, and tomatoes were produced in the orchards, the following being the quantities returned for 1924-25:—Melons, 3,436 cwt. ; rhubarb, 8,375 dozen bundles ; and tomatoes, 321,198 bushels. There were also 1,989

acres laid down in gardens growing fruit for private use; the value of the produce from these was estimated at about £10,000.

According to prices received by growers the value of fruit which reaches market was estimated to be £1,029,700 in 1920-21, £1,184,100 in 1921-22, £1,172,300 in 1922-23, £1,193,689 in 1923-24, and £1,091,508 in 1924-25. This, of course, does not represent the actual value of all the fruit grown, as large quantities are privately consumed in various ways. No very reliable estimate of the value of such fruit can be prepared, but it may be set down at about £40,000.

The area under market gardens in the year 1924-25 was 14,620 acres. As these gardens are generally situated near large centres of population, the producers are able to dispose of the bulk of their goods with a minimum loss from waste, &c. An average return of £50 per acre is regarded as a fair estimate of their value, and on this basis the total value of the produce may be given as £731,000. This does not include crops of one acre and over of potatoes, onions, mangel-wurzel, beet, carrots, parsnips, and turnips grown in market gardens, such crops being tabulated under their respective heads in the returns relating to agriculture.

The quantity of dried fruit (weight after drying) was first collected in 1895-6, when 179,460 lbs. were returned. During 1924-25 the quantity produced was 1,258,358 lbs., which was 36 per cent. more than the quantity for the previous year. The production of the various kinds of dried fruit, with the exception of raisins and currants, the particulars of which appear on page 528, is shown in the following statement for each of the last five seasons:—

DRIED FRUIT, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Year ended June—	Apples.	Prunes.	Peaches.	Apricots.	Figs.	Pears.	Nectarines.	Total.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1921 ..	72,530	388,729	451,525	338,617	30,811	118,857	9,011	1,410,080
1922 ..	10,689	298,068	232,003	221,297	32,578	149,600	4,414	948,649
1923 ..	5,354	376,491	454,899	518,196	29,632	36,915	14,041	1,435,528
1924 ..	3,104	395,090	168,948	217,624	6,226	132,217	2,953	926,162
1925 ..	8,087	638,302	153,235	328,643	16,945	102,792	10,354	1,258,358

A striking feature of the returns for the last eight seasons is the regularity with which seasons of comparatively small production alternate with much more bountiful ones.

The following is a return of the minor crops for the last two seasons. The items do not in all cases represent the whole of the respective crops grown, but refer only to such as were taken cognisance of by the collectors. The return, therefore, indicates the nature of the crops rather than the full extent of their cultivation:—

MINOR CROPS, 1923-24 AND 1924-25.

Crop.	1923-24.		1924-25.	
	Area.	Produce.	Area.	Produce.
	acres.		acres.	
Beans	979	20,861 bushels	1,028	18,231 bushels
Chicory	608	690 tons (dry)	309	314 tons (dry)
Flowers	368	..	439	..
Garlic	3	9 tons	12	29 tons
Herbs	6	..	9	..
Flax—New Zealand ..	90	*	90	*
Millet—Broom	2,626	{ 14,480 cwt. fibre 15,340 cwt. seed }	531	{ 2,999 cwt. fibre 2,046 cwt. seed }
„ Japanese	2,142	15,100 „ „	220	1,130 „ „
Nurseries	985	..	742	..
Pumpkins	2,163	11,211 tons	1,691	7,100 tons
Seeds—Agricultural and Garden	88	..	34	..
Sugar Beet	1,937	{ 29,512 tons clean beet, pro- ducing 3,499 tons market- able sugar }	1,897	{ 24,468 tons clean beet, pro- ducing 3,017 tons market- able sugar }
Sunflowers	231	2,263 cwt.	46	478 cwt.
Others	11	..	4	..
Total	12,237	..	7,052	..

* Only cut every third year.

The practice of fallowing has become very popular in recent years. This is no doubt due to the more enlightened methods adopted, especially in wheat farming, where results have justified the introduction of extensive fallowing in conjunction with heavy manuring. The acreage in fallow in the years 1901, 1906, 1911, 1916, and each of the last five years was as follows:—

LAND IN FALLOW.

Year ended March—	Acres.	Year ended March—	Acres.
1901	602,870	1922	2,052,964
1906	1,049,915	1923	2,186,881
1911	1,434,177	1924	2,294,297
1916	1,358,343	1925	2,215,270
1921	1,935,747		

Nearly all of the fallowed area is devoted to wheat production. Of the 2,215,270 acres in fallow last season, 710,447 were in the Wimmera, 759,103 in the Mallee, and 544,673 in the Northern District. The total for these three districts represented, therefore, 91 per cent. of the land fallowed in the State.

The increase in the proportion of farmers using manure indicates the popularity and the value of this method of treating the soil. Last year the number of farmers who used manure was 39,393, as compared with 26,159 in 1911, 11,439 in 1901, and 7,318 in 1898. The following table shows the number of farmers using manure, and the quantity used, in 1901, 1906, 1911, and 1916, and each of the last four years:—

MANURE USED FOR FERTILIZATION, 1901 TO 1924.

Year.			Farmers using.	Area used on.	Manure used—	
					Natural.	Artificial.
				acres.	tons.	tons.
1901	..	..	11,439	556,777	153,611	23,535
1906	..	..	23,072	1,985,148	205,906	60,871
1911	..	..	26,159	2,676,408	205,739	82,581
1916	..	..	33,165	3,870,742	181,268	117,812
1921	..	..	37,835	3,848,184	161,683	150,012
1922	..	..	40,037	4,148,780	173,343	172,897
1923	..	..	39,749	4,113,640	163,843	178,621
1924	..	..	39,393	4,301,558	151,611	184,140

The area on which manure was used represented only 7 per cent. of that under crop in 1898, but since then the proportion manured has rapidly increased. In 1901, it was 19 per cent. ; in 1903, 36 per cent. ; in 1905, 56 per cent. ; in 1909, 66 per cent. ; in 1913, 77 per cent. ; and in 1924, 90 per cent. During 1924-25 the quantity of fertilizers imported into Victoria from oversea countries was 139,658 tons valued at £349,538. This included 88,053 tons of rock phosphates valued at £197,081, and 44,674 tons of guano valued at £98,515, all of which, except 10 tons of guano, came from the Pacific Islands.

**Persons
employed on
Farming,
Dairying, and
Pastoral
Holdings.**

Information is obtained by the collectors of agricultural statistics each year as to the number of persons ordinarily employed upon the land occupied. For the last five years the numbers were as follows :—

**NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED UPON FARMING,
DAIRYING, AND PASTORAL HOLDINGS. 1920 to 1924.**

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1920	100,236	51,014	151,250
1921	106,369	53,059	159,428
1922	107,872	48,978	156,850
1923	105,933	46,218	152,151
1924	103,013	33,954	136,967

Persons absent from their farms for the greater portion of the year following other occupations, as well as temporary hands engaged in harvesting, &c., are not included in the above tabulation, neither are domestic servants nor cooks; but females partly engaged in outdoor duties in connexion with the holdings are included therein. It is estimated that the temporary labour employed on farms and pastoral holdings is equivalent to about 30,000 men employed continuously throughout the year.

In the next return will be found particulars of the rates of wages paid (with rations) upon farms and pastoral holdings during 1924-25. The information has been furnished by the occupiers of holdings.

**Wages—
agricultural
and
pastoral.**

WAGES, AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL, 1924-25.

Occupations.	Range.	Prevailing Rate.
Ploughmen	30s. to 80s. per week ..	50s. per week
Farm labourers	25s. to 70s. per week ..	42s. 6d. per week
Threshing machine hands	12d. to 18d. per hour ..	15d. per hour
Harvest hands	10s. to 15s. per day ..	13s. per day
Milkers	25s. to 60s. per week ..	37s. 6d. per week
Maize pickers (without rations)	6d. to 12d. per bag ..	8d. per bag
Married couples	50s. to 80s. per week ..	60s. per week
Female servants	15s. to 40s. per week ..	27s. 6d. per week
Shearers, hand (without rations)	35s. to 40s. per 100 sheep	40s. per 100 sheep
„ machine (without rations)	35s. to 40s. per 100 sheep	38s. per 100 sheep
Gardeners, market	30s. to 60s. per week ..	40s. per week
„ orchard	30s. to 70s. per week ..	40s. per week
Vineyard hands	30s. to 80s. per week ..	40s. per week

PASTORAL AND DAIRYING INDUSTRIES.

The pastoral and dairying industries have always been important sources of wealth to the State, and their increasing value in recent years, despite the larger areas devoted to cultivation,

Live Stock.

indicates that both pastures and stock are, on the whole, steadily improving. The progress of stock breeding is shown in the next table, which gives the numbers of horses, dairy cows, other cattle, sheep and pigs, and their numbers per head of population and per square mile, in each of the last seven census years, also in the year 1925.

LIVE STOCK IN VICTORIA, 1861 to 1925.

Year.	Horses (including Foals).	Cattle—		Sheep.	Pigs.
		Dairy Cows.	Other.		
	number.	number.	number.	number.	number.
1861	76,536	197,332	525,000	5,780,896	61,259
1871	209,025	212,193	564,534	10,477,976	180,109
1881	275,516	329,198	957,069	10,360,285	241,936
1891	436,469	395,192	1,387,689	12,692,843	282,457
1901	392,237	521,612	1,080,772	10,841,790	350,370
1911	472,080	668,777	878,792	12,882,665	333,281
1921	487,503	620,005	955,154	12,171,084	175,275
1925	473,236	760,207	845,347	12,649,898	288,509
<i>Per Head of Population.</i>					
1861	·14	·37	·97	10·70	·11
1871	·29	·29	·77	14·32	·25
1881	·32	·38	1·11	12·01	·28
1891	·38	·35	1·22	11·13	·25
1901	·33	·43	·90	9·03	·29
1911	·36	·51	·67	9·79	·25
1921	·32	·41	·63	7·99	·12
1925	·29	·46	·51	7·63	·17
<i>Per Square Mile.</i>					
1861	·87	2·25	5·97	65·78	·70
1871	2·38	2·41	6·42	119·22	2·05
1881	3·14	3·75	10·89	117·88	2·75
1891	4·97	4·50	15·79	144·43	3·21
1901	4·46	5·94	12·30	123·36	4·00
1911	5·37	7·61	10·00	146·59	3·79
1921	5·55	7·05	10·87	138·49	1·99
1925	5·38	8·65	9·62	143·94	3·28

By reducing horses and cattle to an equivalent in sheep on the assumption that one of the former will eat as much as ten, and one of the latter as much as six sheep, interesting comparisons of the stock carried on the land at different periods may be instituted. Calculations made on this basis show that each square mile carried an equivalent of 307 sheep in 1925, as compared with 302 in 1921, 306 in 1911, and 237 in 1881.

Size of holdings, showing areas cultivated and grazed.

Information relating to land occupied and cultivation and live stock thereon was collected in March, 1925. The land privately owned was summarized according to different sized holdings, and in the instances where Crown lands were held in conjunction therewith these were, regardless of size, scheduled with the holdings to which they were attached. The details, as well as the particulars of the total holdings in which only Crown land was held, are given in the two succeeding tables:—

SIZE OF HOLDINGS SHOWING AREAS UNDER CULTIVATION AND PASTURE, MARCH, 1925.

Privately-owned Land.			Crown Land held in conjunction with that privately owned.	Total Area Occupied.	Area under—	
Size of Holdings. (In Acres.)	Number of Holdings.	Area Occupied.			Cultivation.	Pasture, &c.
		acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1 and under	5	3,407	8,859	22,667	31,526	30,001
5 "	15	6,604	59,434	13,990	73,424	55,480
15 "	30	6,989	142,216	21,301	163,517	110,074
30 "	50	5,083	195,146	121,019	316,165	259,345
50 "	100	9,206	658,278	191,047	849,325	687,837
100 "	200	12,058	1,712,358	307,996	2,020,354	1,681,319
200 "	300	6,653	1,612,231	294,178	1,906,409	1,558,586
300 "	321	3,007	943,427	96,038	1,039,465	793,793
321 "	400	3,282	1,165,355	132,311	1,297,666	1,026,497
400 "	500	3,482	1,544,119	323,060	1,867,179	1,457,490
500 "	600	2,805	1,526,266	154,728	1,680,994	1,251,822
600 "	641	2,328	1,778,202	261,906	2,040,108	1,307,340
641 "	700	1,427	953,551	68,086	1,021,637	680,287
700 "	800	2,445	1,823,713	205,736	2,029,449	1,473,493
800 "	900	1,607	1,349,410	154,845	1,504,255	1,141,224
900 "	1,000	1,422	1,343,790	187,944	1,531,734	1,148,045
1,000 "	1,500	3,578	4,322,043	657,909	4,979,952	3,817,729
1,500 "	2,000	1,299	2,214,679	378,548	2,593,227	2,130,085
2,000 "	2,500	644	1,421,844	309,124	1,730,968	1,519,405
2,500 "	3,000	336	907,618	431,378	1,338,996	1,218,935
3,000 "	4,000	412	1,399,073	184,274	1,583,347	1,461,215
4,000 "	5,000	151	668,062	125,642	793,704	751,402
5,000 "	7,500	187	1,124,538	183,574	1,308,112	1,243,574
7,500 "	10,000	86	744,170	15,395	759,565	733,829
10,000 "	15,000	66	803,944	28,887	832,831	820,134
15,000 "	20,000	25	436,207	4,565	440,772	436,859
20,000 "	30,000	12	290,933	1,417	292,350	291,319
30,000 "	40,000	..	..	..	..	..
40,000 "	50,000	1	45,858	..	45,858	45,856
Total Privately-owned Land ..	79,102	31,195,324	4,877,565	36,072,889	6,939,914	29,132,975
Crown Land not held in conjunction with that privately owned ..	935	..	733,335	733,335	36,800	696,535
Grand Total ..	80,037	31,195,324	5,610,900	36,806,224	6,976,714	29,829,510

Size of holdings and live stock thereon.

The last table shows the areas devoted to cultivation and grazing on different-sized holdings in March, 1925, whilst the next table gives the numbers of horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs on these holdings, and the total numbers on Crown lands that are not held conjointly with privately-owned land, at the same date.

SIZE OF HOLDINGS AND LIVE STOCK THEREON, MARCH, 1925.

Size of Holdings. (In Acres).			Live Stock on Land Occupied.				
			Horses.	Cattle.		Sheep.	Pigs.
				Dairy Cows.	Other Cattle.		
1 and under	5	..	3,034	4,333	2,413	690	1,474
5	15	..	8,507	12,606	6,834	3,067	5,267
15	30	..	11,629	16,988	9,658	9,498	5,889
30	50	..	11,359	25,131	14,527	20,166	9,790
50	100	..	27,238	85,676	44,804	83,340	37,172
100	200	..	47,200	169,969	103,312	257,526	71,757
200	300	..	34,323	101,276	76,959	374,404	38,515
300	321	..	18,075	38,226	33,612	225,976	15,231
321	400	..	21,317	45,664	44,647	352,775	17,002
400	500	..	25,800	44,802	51,043	506,082	16,060
500	600	..	22,463	32,919	41,356	510,358	11,593
600	641	..	26,103	19,115	27,529	430,832	7,332
641	700	..	12,896	10,900	15,204	256,479	4,037
700	800	..	21,344	19,526	28,080	522,848	6,630
800	900	..	15,375	15,238	24,634	451,078	6,497
900	1,000	..	15,063	12,317	23,460	511,869	3,523
1,000	1,500	..	44,641	33,773	79,512	1,806,788	10,647
1,500	2,000	..	18,074	14,572	39,010	1,100,332	3,792
2,000	2,500	..	9,434	7,442	28,225	763,924	2,475
2,500	3,000	..	5,063	4,394	13,551	535,664	928
3,000	4,000	..	6,539	4,997	28,056	901,377	1,073
4,000	5,000	..	2,755	1,855	13,529	446,130	572
5,000	7,500	..	4,636	2,385	23,334	737,711	508
7,500	10,000	..	2,257	1,103	13,491	580,040	99
10,000	15,000	..	2,520	1,075	17,635	628,316	76
15,000	20,000	..	824	519	5,171	295,932	82
20,000	30,000	..	689	301	4,345	226,412	19
30,000	40,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
40,000	50,000	..	126	30	433	32,000	30
Total on Privately-owned land			419,284	727,132	814,364	12,571,614	278,070
On Crown Land not held in conjunction with privately-owned land			2,762	3,783	5,508	51,401	2,031
In towns and travelling .. ..			..	..	..	26,883	..
Grand Total			422,046	730,915	819,872	12,649,898	280,101

The position disclosed was that 72,305 persons holding up to 1,000 acres each of private land occupied in the aggregate 16,816,355 acres of such land, as well as 2,556,852 acres of Crown land—a total of 19,373,207 acres, or 54 per cent. of the total area in occupation. Of the privately-owned land and Crown land held in conjunction therewith, these occupiers controlled 68 per cent. of the total cultivation and 50 per cent. of the pasture, and possessed 77 per cent. of the horses, 90 per cent. of the dairy cows, 67 per cent. of the other cattle, 93 per cent. of the pigs, and 36 per cent. of the sheep.

Size of holdings in 1913, 1919, and 1925.

Particulars of the size of holdings and cultivation thereon, together with the particulars of the total holdings in which only Crown land was held, are given in the following table for the years 1913, 1919, and 1925 :—

SIZE OF HOLDINGS AND CULTIVATION THEREON,
1913, 1919, AND 1925.

Privately-owned Land.				Crown Land held in conjunction with that privately owned.	Total Area Occupied.	Area under—	
Size of Holdings. (In acres.)	Year.	Number of Holdings.	Area Occupied.			Cultivation.	Pasture, &c.
			acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1 and under 100	1913	26,113	915,493	374,511	1,290,004	245,498	1,044,506
	1919	28,902	942,775	347,377	1,290,152	241,794	1,048,358
	1925	31,289	1,063,933	370,024	1,433,957	291,220	1,142,737
100 " 321	1913	18,483	3,819,680	1,216,829	5,036,509	875,525	4,160,984
	1919	19,930	3,967,377	840,116	4,807,493	807,434	4,000,059
	1925	21,718	4,268,016	698,212	4,966,228	932,530	4,033,698
321 " 641	1913	11,212	5,475,942	1,191,890	6,667,832	1,424,020	5,243,812
	1919	11,831	5,790,225	1,480,407	7,270,632	1,490,476	5,780,156
	1925	12,397	6,013,942	872,005	6,885,947	1,842,798	5,043,149
641 " 1,000	1913	5,221	4,187,010	1,241,667	5,428,677	1,075,000	4,353,677
	1919	5,709	4,523,331	1,071,162	5,594,493	1,105,867	4,488,626
	1925	6,901	5,470,464	616,611	6,087,075	1,644,026	4,443,049
1,000 " 2,500	1913	4,544	6,748,985	1,852,529	8,601,514	1,546,611	7,054,903
	1919	5,010	7,291,675	2,300,465	9,592,140	1,379,247	8,212,893
	1925	5,521	7,958,566	1,345,581	9,304,147	1,836,928	7,467,219
2,500 " 5,000	1913	820	2,803,419	1,085,769	3,889,188	352,258	3,536,930
	1919	855	2,825,855	716,245	3,542,100	270,426	3,271,674
	1925	899	2,974,753	741,294	3,716,047	284,495	3,431,552
5,000 " 10,000	1913	267	1,825,862	342,848	2,168,710	111,910	2,056,800
	1919	290	1,996,606	378,877	2,375,483	93,014	2,292,469
	1925	273	1,868,708	198,969	2,067,677	90,274	1,977,403
10,000 and upwards	1913	151	2,652,966	404,710	3,057,676	39,606	3,018,070
	1919	152	2,638,307	124,045	2,762,352	35,979	2,726,373
	1925	104	1,576,942	34,869	1,611,811	17,643	1,594,168
Total of privately-owned land	1913	66,811	28,429,357	7,710,753	36,140,110	5,670,428	30,469,682
	1919	72,679	29,976,151	7,258,694	37,234,845	5,414,237	31,820,608
	1925	79,102	31,195,324	4,877,565	36,072,889	6,939,914	29,132,975
Crown Land not held in conjunction with that privately owned	1913	1,892	..	1,078,688	1,078,688	36,151	1,042,537
	1919	1,651	..	899,289	899,289	76,783	822,506
	1925	935	..	733,335	733,335	36,800	696,535
Grand Total	1913	68,703	28,429,357	8,789,441	37,218,798	5,706,579	31,512,219
	1919	74,330	29,976,151	8,157,983	38,134,134	5,491,020	32,643,114
	1925	80,037	31,195,324	5,610,900	36,806,224	6,976,714	29,829,510

The number of holdings of privately-owned land of over 10,000 acres was 104 in 1925, as compared with 152 in 1919, 151 in 1913, 175 in 1910, and 195 in 1906, and the aggregate areas comprised therein in the corresponding years were 1,576,942 acres, 2,638,307 acres, 2,652,966 acres, 3,298,227 acres and 4,134,067 acres. The reduction in the period of nineteen years between March, 1906, and March, 1925, was equivalent to 47 per cent. in the number and 62 per cent. in the acreage of such estates. Subdivision of estates of over 10,000 acres was practically at a stand-still during the period between March, 1913, and March, 1919, but, since the latter date, such estates have declined by 32 per cent. in the number and 40 per cent. in the acreage. In all

other holdings of the sizes mentioned in the above table, excepting those between 5,000 and 10,000 acres, which declined in both numbers and acreage, between March, 1919, and March, 1925, there were increases in both numbers and acreage in the nineteen years referred to.

To illustrate the uses to which the land was applied in 1913, 1919, and 1925, various percentages relating to holdings of different sizes, of privately-owned land and Crown land held in conjunction therewith, are given for those years in the succeeding table, which also shows the live stock carried by the holdings, reduced to their equivalent in sheep:—

SIZE OF HOLDINGS AND HOW UTILIZED, 1913, 1919, AND 1925.

Size of Holdings of Privately-owned Land. (In Acres.)		Year.	Percentage in each Division to Total of —					Live Stock Grazed reduced to equivalent in Sheep.	
			Holdings.	Area Occupied.	Area under Cultivation.	Area used for Pasture, &c.	Equivalent in Sheep Grazed.	Total.	Per 100 Acres used for Grazing, &c.
1 and under	100 ..	{ 1913	39·08	3·57	4·33	3·43	7·08	1,766,873	169
		{ 1919	39·77	3·46	4·47	3·29	6·50	1,909,552	182
		{ 1925	39·56	3·97	4·20	3·92	7·97	2,072,251	181
100 ..	321 ..	{ 1913	27·66	13·94	15·44	13·66	17·67	4,410,283	106
		{ 1919	27·42	12·91	14·91	12·57	17·40	5,107,256	128
		{ 1925	27·46	13·77	13·44	13·85	19·20	4,994,010	124
321 ..	641 ..	{ 1913	16·78	18·45	25·12	17·21	17·14	4,278,079	82
		{ 1919	16·28	19·53	27·53	18·17	17·48	5,132,920	89
		{ 1925	15·67	19·09	26·55	17·31	17·68	4,599,327	91
641 ..	1,000 ..	{ 1913	7·82	15·02	18·95	14·29	12·15	3,031,015	70
		{ 1919	7·85	15·03	20·43	14·11	12·37	3,630,165	81
		{ 1925	8·72	16·88	23·69	15·25	12·63	3,285,208	74
1,000 ..	2,500 ..	{ 1913	6·80	23·80	27·27	23·15	20·34	5,076,868	72
		{ 1919	6·89	25·76	25·47	25·81	22·28	6,539,378	80
		{ 1925	6·98	25·79	26·47	25·63	21·55	5,607,738	75
2,500 ..	5,000 ..	{ 1913	1·23	10·76	6·22	11·61	9·22	2,300,276	65
		{ 1919	1·18	9·51	5·00	10·28	8·84	2,594,808	79
		{ 1925	1·14	10·30	4·10	11·78	9·32	2,425,033	71
5,000 ..	10,000 ..	{ 1913	·40	6·00	1·98	6·75	6·95	1,735,240	84
		{ 1919	·40	6·38	1·53	7·20	6·85	2,011,066	88
		{ 1925	·34	5·73	1·30	6·79	6·26	1,628,559	82
10,000 and upwards	..	{ 1913	·23	8·46	·69	9·90	9·45	2,358,478	78
		{ 1919	·21	7·42	·66	8·57	8·28	2,431,720	89
		{ 1925	·13	4·47	·25	5·47	5·39	1,401,304	88
Total ..	..	{ 1913	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	24,957,112	82
		{ 1919	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	29,356,865	92
		{ 1925	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	26,013,430	89

In the above table horses and cattle have been reduced to an equivalent in sheep on the assumption that one head of the former will eat as much as ten, and one of the latter as much as six sheep. On this basis every 100 acres under pasture was carrying the equivalent of 89 sheep in 1925, as compared with 92 in 1919, 82 in 1913, and 78 in 1910. Dairying is carried on principally on the small holdings, and pigs are most numerous where dairying prevails. In 1925, 62

per cent. of the dairy cows and 67 per cent. of the pigs were on holdings of not more than 320 acres.

Persons wholly employed on privately-owned land, during the year ended 31st March, 1925, numbered 102,336 males and 33,752 females. Of these, 55,600 males and 20,122 females, or 54 per cent. and 60 per cent. respectively, were on holdings of less than 321 acres. On holdings of Crown land not held in conjunction with privately-owned land, 677 males and 202 females were employed.

The following tables show the area of, and the land in occupation, in March, 1925, in districts, and the uses to which the land was applied :—

AREA OF AND LAND IN OCCUPATION IN EACH DISTRICT OF VICTORIA, MARCH, 1925.

(Areas of 1 acre and upwards.)

District.	Area of District.	Number of Occupiers.	Acres Occupied.				
			For Agricultural Purposes.	For Pasture.		Other Purposes and Unproductive.	Total.
				Sown Grasses, Clover, or Lucerne.	Natural Grasses.		
	acres.						
Central ..	4,065,280	18,127	440,802	186,916	2,007,602	167,667	2,802,987
North-Central ..	2,929,920	5,816	145,244	10,596	1,929,459	20,252	2,105,551
Western ..	8,775,040	13,194	366,841	196,268	5,754,465	401,154	6,718,728
Wimmera ..	7,394,560	6,646	1,749,743	932	4,058,855	150,392	5,959,922
Mallee ..	10,784,000	8,327	2,384,300	11,042	2,477,694	689,094	5,562,130
Northern ..	6,337,280	12,906	1,549,738	92,063	3,623,787	28,254	5,293,842
North-Eastern ..	7,220,480	5,581	172,474	5,709	3,435,626	310,869	3,924,678
Gippsland ..	8,739,200	9,440	167,572	440,813	3,141,058	688,943	4,438,386
Total ..	56,245,760	80,037	6,976,714	944,339	26,428,546	2,456,625	36,806,224
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL OCCUPIED IN EACH DISTRICT.							
Central ..	..	..	15.73	6.67	71.62	5.98	100.00
North-Central ..	..	..	6.90	0.50	91.64	0.96	100.00
Western ..	..	..	5.46	2.92	85.65	5.97	100.00
Wimmera ..	..	..	29.36	0.02	68.10	2.52	100.00
Mallee ..	..	..	42.87	0.20	44.55	12.38	100.00
Northern ..	..	..	29.28	1.74	68.45	0.53	100.00
North-Eastern ..	..	..	4.39	0.15	87.54	7.92	100.00
Gippsland ..	..	..	3.78	9.93	70.77	15.52	100.00
Total ..	..	..	18.95	2.56	71.80	6.69	100.00
PERCENTAGE IN EACH DISTRICT OF TOTAL IN STATE.							
Central ..	..	22.65	6.32	19.79	7.60	6.83	7.62
North-Central ..	..	7.27	2.08	1.12	7.30	0.82	5.72
Western ..	..	16.49	5.26	20.78	21.77	16.33	18.26
Wimmera ..	..	8.30	25.08	0.10	15.36	6.12	16.19
Mallee ..	..	10.40	34.18	1.17	9.37	28.05	15.11
Northern ..	..	16.12	22.21	9.75	13.71	1.15	14.38
North-Eastern ..	..	6.97	2.47	0.61	13.00	12.66	10.66
Gippsland ..	..	11.80	2.40	46.68	11.89	28.04	12.06
Total ..	..	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

It will be seen from these tables that the largest areas under cultivation and the largest proportions of cultivation to land occupied are found in the Northern, Wimmera, and Mallee districts. Of the occupied land, 29 per cent. in the Northern, 43 per cent. in the Mallee, and 29 per cent. in the Wimmera district are devoted to agriculture, and these divisions supply 81 per cent. of the cultivation in Victoria. In the North-Central, Western, and North-Eastern districts the land occupied is largely devoted to grazing; in Gippsland considerable attention is given to the cultivation of grasses, 47 per cent. of all the sown grasses in the State being found in that district.

Areas occupied and stock thereon, in districts. The next table contains particulars of the distribution of horses, cattle, and sheep on agricultural and pastoral lands in March, 1925.

AREA OCCUPIED AND STOCK THEREON, 1925.

District.	Area Occupied for—		Number of—		
	Agriculture.	Pasture.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.
	acres.	acres.			
Central ..	440,802	2,194,518	94,593	267,210	1,002,627
North-Central ..	145,244	1,940,055	22,678	94,680	1,191,301
Western ..	366,841	5,950,733	62,814	377,909	4,126,789
Wimmera ..	1,749,743	4,059,787	66,141	50,467	2,126,938
Mallee ..	2,384,300	2,488,736	63,906	43,273	668,466
Northern ..	1,549,738	3,715,850	90,542	208,175	1,975,483
North-Eastern ..	172,474	3,441,335	31,229	217,025	866,584
Gippsland ..	167,572	3,581,871	41,333	346,815	691,710
Total ..	6,976,714	27,372,885	473,236	1,605,554	12,649,898

The area occupied does not include 2,456,625 acres which are mostly in an unproductive state. Compared with 1924, sheep increased by 14 per cent., and cattle by 1 per cent., while horses decreased by 2·6 per cent.

Live stock in Victoria, 1921 to 1925. The following return shows the live stock in Victoria in each of the last five years. Tables showing the stock classified in conjunction with holdings and sheep classified in different-sized flocks in March, 1925, are given on pages 551-553 of this volume.

LIVE STOCK IN VICTORIA, 1921 to 1925.

Live Stock.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Horses (including foals) ..	487,503	496,124	494,947	486,075	473,236
Cattle—					
Dairy Cows ..	620,005	719,473	794,898	738,149	760,207
Other (including calves) ..	955,154	1,030,896	990,762	853,218	845,347
Sheep ..	12,171,084	12,325,818	11,765,520	11,059,761	12,649,898
Pigs ..	175,275	230,770	294,962	259,795	288,509

In the subjoined table will be found a statement of the average and the range of prices ruling in Melbourne during the years 1923-24 and 1924-25 for live stock. The information has been extracted from the Melbourne *Stock and Station Journal* :—

PRICES IN MELBOURNE OF LIVE STOCK, 1923-24 AND
1924-25.

Stock.	Prices in 1923-24.			Prices in 1924-25.		
	Average.	Range.		Average.	Range.	
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<i>Horses.</i>						
Extra heavy draught	34 17 6	33 0 0	to 37 0 0	38 19 0	37 0 0	to 40 0 0
Medium draught ..	26 7 6	25 10 0	to 27 0 0	27 1 0	26 0 0	to 28 10 0
Delivery cart ..	18 2 6	17 0 0	to 20 0 0	14 8 0	13 0 0	to 16 0 0
Indian Remounts ..	24 7 6	23 0 0	to 26 0 0	22 8 0	22 0 0	to 23 10 0
Saddle and harness	5 0 0	4 10 0	to 6 0 0	4 8 0	4 0 0	to 5 0 0
Ponies ..	7 15 0	7 0 0	to 9 0 0	7 3 0	6 10 0	to 7 15 0
Order cart ..	9 10 0	9 0 0	to 10 10 0	8 5 0	8 0 0	to 9 0 0
<i>Fat Cattle.</i>						
<i>Bullocks—</i>						
Extra prime ..	21 15 0	15 17 0	to 33 12 0	15 16 0	14 12 0	to 17 8 0
Prime ..	18 15 0	14 1 0	to 28 17 6	14 2 0	13 2 6	to 15 8 0
Good ..	15 8 0	11 19 0	to 22 14 0	12 5 0	11 7 0	to 13 12 0
Good light and handy weights	11 12 0	9 7 6	to 16 5 0	10 13 0	9 4 0	to 11 17 6
Second ..	9 2 0	7 15 0	to 11 15 0	8 15 0	7 15 0	to 9 9 0
<i>Cows—</i>						
Best ..	12 2 0	9 12 6	to 19 11 0	10 0 0	9 1 0	to 11 3 0
Others ..	6 10 0	5 8 0	to 9 19 0	7 16 0	6 15 0	to 8 16 0
<i>Dairy Cattle.</i>						
Best milkers ..	13 17 0	12 12 0	to 15 14 0	13 18 0	11 7 0	to 16 1 0
Springers, best ..	10 10 6	8 15 0	to 14 0 0	10 2 0	8 13 0	to 12 15 0
<i>Fat Sheep.</i>						
<i>Wethers (cross)—</i>						
Extra prime ..	2 6 5	1 14 4	to 3 4 3	2 3 4	1 16 0	to 2 13 2
Prime ..	2 2 3	1 11 6	to 2 16 10	2 0 5	1 13 8	to 2 10 0
Good ..	1 17 6	1 8 2	to 2 8 8	1 16 7	1 9 5	to 2 5 6
<i>Ewes (cross)—</i>						
Extra prime ..	1 18 9	1 8 3	to 2 14 2	1 18 1	1 12 7	to 2 6 0
Prime ..	1 14 5	1 5 2	to 2 6 1	1 15 4	1 9 10	to 2 2 9
Good ..	1 9 4	1 1 2	to 1 16 10	1 12 5	1 6 7	to 1 18 4
<i>Wethers (merino)—</i>						
Extra prime ..	2 5 4	1 10 2	to 3 7 5	2 3 1	1 15 4	to 2 11 9
Prime ..	2 0 7	1 9 2	to 2 14 6	2 0 1	1 13 0	to 2 8 9
Good ..	1 14 9	1 5 10	to 2 1 0	1 16 5	1 9 1	to 2 5 8
Ewes (merino) best	1 13 2	1 4 0	to 2 0 2	1 13 6	1 7 11	to 2 1 9
<i>Fat Lambs.</i>						
Extra prime ..	1 16 4	1 9 5	to 2 15 1	1 14 11	1 13 2	to 1 17 7
Prime ..	1 11 7	1 6 8	to 1 18 11	1 12 2	1 9 5	to 1 14 5
Good ..	1 7 11	1 3 6	to 1 12 6	1 8 7	1 5 6	to 1 10 11
Second ..	1 3 10	0 19 8	to 1 9 0	1 4 8	1 1 3	to 1 5 10
<i>Pigs.</i>						
<i>Back Fatters—</i>						
Extra heavy prime	11 2 6	9 19 0	to 12 7 0	11 5 0	8 16 0	to 14 2 0
Extra prime and weighty ..	8 0 0	6 7 0	to 9 7 6	7 14 0	5 13 0	to 9 13 0
<i>Baconers—</i>						
Extra prime ..	6 3 0	5 10 0	to 6 18 0	5 8 0	4 15 0	to 6 0 0
Prime ..	5 4 0	4 14 0	to 5 17 0	4 13 0	4 2 0	to 5 7 0
Porkers ..	2 19 6	2 15 3	to 3 5 0	2 16 0	2 10 0	to 3 4 0

Stock Slaughtered. The following is a statement of the stock slaughtered on farms and stations, as well as in municipal abattoirs, during each of the last five years :—

STOCK SLAUGHTERED, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.			Number Slaughtered.		
			Sheep and Lambs.	Cattle.	Pigs.
1920	..	..	4,244,798	374,545	240,557
1921	..	..	4,005,587	331,707	239,638
1922	..	..	5,863,195	424,199	308,172
1923	..	..	4,078,273	461,958	373,609
1924	..	..	3,591,219	499,840	368,918

The purposes for which the slaughtered animals were used were as follows :—

PURPOSES FOR WHICH STOCK WERE SLAUGHTERED, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.			For Butcher and Private Use.*			For Export.		
			Sheep.	Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Pigs.
1920	..	..	1,835,419	353,429	82,315	2,385,966	14,912	5,465
1921	..	..	2,794,790	310,428	55,521	1,186,704	16,694	7,335
1922	..	..	3,184,411	413,650	107,022	2,657,515	4,251	..
1923	..	..	3,372,722	449,101	139,405	691,630	4,011	..
1924	..	..	2,548,327	484,244	139,808	1,035,799	7,391	..

Year.			For Preserving and Salting.			For Boiling Down.		
			Sheep.	Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Pigs.
1920	..	..	2,067	1,133	152,556	21,346	5,071	221
1921	..	..	20,622	2,740	176,451	3,471	1,845	331
1922	..	..	9,763	2,955	200,901	11,506	3,343	249
1923	..	..	2,632	2,519	232,914	11,289	6,327	290
1924	..	..	4,452	4,323	228,869	2,641	3,882	241

* Including carcasses held in Cool Stores at end of year.

Of the 3,591,219 sheep and lambs slaughtered in Victoria in 1924, 1,035,799, or 29 per cent., were frozen, as compared with 691,630, or 17 per cent., in 1923, and 2,657,515, or 45 per cent., in 1922. In 1924-25 the oversea exports included 33,448,426 lbs. of mutton and lamb, valued at £1,000,765.

**Mutton and
Lamb frozen
for Export.**

The soil and climate of Victoria are well suited to the economical production of both mutton and lamb, and, as there is practically no limit to the demand for these products in Europe, the possibilities for those engaged in raising sheep for export are very great, especially as the number of sheep in the world is not keeping pace with the increase in population. The importance of this export trade to Victorian sheep owners is evidenced by the figures in the appended statement showing the numbers of carcasses exported in each of the last eleven years. In the four years 1915-16 to 1918-19 the quantity exported was small in comparison with earlier years. The chief reasons for this were, in 1915-16, a drought in the preceding year, and, in the three following years, the lack of shipping space. In the year 1919-20 the exports were much greater than in any previous year, due mainly to the accumulations of the previous three years. The quantities exported in 1920-21 were below the average, owing to the dry condition which had prevailed in the previous year. After a world-wide fall in values, the season 1922-23 was marked by exceptionally heavy exports of both mutton and lamb at improved prices. In the 1923-24 season the export of mutton practically ceased, while the number of lambs exported was only about 40 per cent. of that for the previous year. The abnormal activity in 1922-23 was, to some extent, responsible for the great reduction in exports in 1923-24. Other reasons were a tendency among owners to retain their flocks in expectation of high prices for wool, and the demand for breeding ewes from New South Wales, where a drought had depleted the flocks. Compared with the previous season a slight improvement was manifested in 1924-25.

FROZEN MUTTON AND LAMB EXPORTED.

Year (ended June).	Number of Carcasses Exported.		
	Mutton.	Lamb.	Total.
1914-15	653,329	1,056,823	1,710,152
1915-16 .. ..	..	47,546	47,546
1916-17	52,724	365,694	418,418
1917-18	66,730	129,537	196,267
1918-19	401,382	267,588	668,970
1919-20	2,468,090	1,533,410	4,001,500
1920-21	288,190	497,896	786,086
1921-22	314,564	872,140	1,186,704
1922-23	989,456	1,668,059	2,657,515
1923-24	12,945	678,685	691,630
1924-25	87,767	948,032	1,035,799

Dairying. The dairying industry is one of the principal sources of the wealth of the community. The value of dairy produce in 1925 was £10,381,175, as compared with £10,561,940 in 1924, £10,381,310 in 1923, £9,512,980 in 1922, and £11,816,670 in 1921. The following table shows the numbers of cowkeepers and cows at the end of, and the total production of butter and cheese, in each of the last five years :—

DAIRYING, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Year ended March—			Number of Cow-keepers.	Number of Dairy Cows.	Butter made.*	Cheese made.*
					lbs.	lbs.
1921	..	..	58,117	620,005	64,938,458	3,636,571
1922	..	..	60,882	719,473	82,981,570	5,675,909
1923	..	..	62,424	794,898	84,355,939	3,754,958
1924	..	..	61,685	738,149	86,888,723	7,216,938
1925	..	..	61,549	760,207	100,849,382	6,193,135

* Year ended 30th June.

Dairy Cow's Record. An interesting example of the possibilities of dairying and of the value of selective breeding, combined with scientific feeding, is furnished by the following authenticated record (supplied by the Department of Agriculture, Victoria), over a period of three years, of a Jersey cow.

Jersey cow, born 27th August, 1919.

Calved.	Days in Milk.	Total Milk.	Average Test.	Total Butter-fat.	Milk Yield on last day of Test.
		lbs.	per cent.	lbs.	lbs.
22nd September, 1921	273	6,827	5·08	347	19½
8th February, 1923	273	11,185	5·16	578	40½
25th March, 1924 ..	273	15,799	5·34	843½	42

	£	s.	d.
• 1924.—15,799 lbs. of milk=843½ lbs. of butter-fat at 1s. 5d.	59	14	7
1,495 gallons of skim milk at 2d.	12	9	2
Total return (excluding value of offspring) ..	72	3	9
Cost of feeding (including grazing) ..	21	16	6
Credit balance for nine months	50	7	3

Butter and
cheese made
on farms.

The next table shows the quantities of butter and cheese made on farms in the last five years :—

BUTTER AND CHEESE MADE ON FARMS, 1920-21 to
1924-25.

Year ended June—					Butter.	Cheese.
					lbs.	lbs.
1921	..	..	..	..	5,086,723	492,952
1922	..	..	..	..	5,480,421	316,249
1923	..	..	..	..	5,582,469	418,873
1924	..	..	..	..	5,597,128	420,552
1925	..	..	..	..	5,395,087	228,779

Butter and
cheese made
in factories.

The quantities of butter, cheese, and concentrated, condensed, and powdered milk made, and of cream sold, in factories during the last five years were as follows :—

BUTTER, CHEESE, ETC., MADE IN FACTORIES, 1920-21 to
1924-25.

Year ended June—	Butter made.	Cream sold.	Cheese made.	Concentrated, Condensed, and Powdered Milk made.	Casein.	Milk Sugar.
	lbs.	gallons.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1921	59,851,735	153,124	3,143,619	42,643,871	1,873,815	338,592
1922	77,501,149	160,490	5,359,660	48,354,210	2,022,192	276,786
1923	78,773,470	213,170	3,336,085	38,314,261	2,639,240	410,155
1924	81,291,595	373,236	6,796,386	49,099,632	2,946,346	445,430
1925	95,454,295	495,458	5,964,356	45,693,120	2,716,042	415,753

The quantities of milk, in gallons, received at factories and creameries were 154,042,550 in 1920-21, 193,507,110 in 1921-22, 196,171,380 in 1922-23, 206,915,177 in 1923-24, and 294,764,870 in 1924-25.

**Exports of
butter and
cheese.**

In 1924-25 there were exported from Victoria to countries outside Australia 53,731,160 lbs. of butter, valued at £4,051,632, all of which was Australian produce. The quantity sent to the United Kingdom was 45,943,632 lbs., valued at £3,442,588. The quantity of cheese exported to overseas countries was 1,785,613 lbs., and the value thereof, £65,130.

**Wool
production.**

Information relating to the wool clip is obtained direct from the growers, and an allowance is made for the wool on Victorian skins, both stripped and exported. On this basis the production of wool in 1924-25 and earlier seasons was as follows :—

VICTORIAN WOOL CLIP AND ESTIMATED TOTAL PRODUCTION.

District.		Wool Clip, 1924-25.			
		Sheep.	Lambs.	Total.	
		lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	
Central	.. ..	5,854,579	519,743	6,374,322	
North-Central	.. ..	7,836,866	692,757	8,529,623	
Western	.. ..	29,583,240	2,192,774	31,776,014	
Wimmera	.. ..	15,338,852	1,108,816	16,447,668	
Mallee	.. ..	4,308,292	290,483	4,598,775	
Northern	.. ..	12,024,672	1,190,470	13,215,142	
North-Eastern	.. ..	5,072,096	496,822	5,568,918	
Gippsland	.. ..	3,914,102	327,299	4,241,401	
Total Clip {		1924-25	83,932,699	6,819,164	90,751,863
		1923-24	63,806,820	3,519,735	67,326,555
		1922-23	71,088,919	5,105,031	76,193,950
		1921-22	72,829,509	5,365,837	78,195,346
		1920-21	67,617,476	3,532,465	71,149,941
—		1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
		lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Wool clip	78,195,346	76,193,950	67,326,555	90,751,863
Wool stripped from Victorian skins and on Victorian skins exported (estimated)	25,317,431	26,274,000	15,186,806	16,036,034
Total production	103,512,777	102,467,950	82,513,361	106,787,897
Total value	£4,662,750	£6,380,600	£7,695,000	£11,444,240

In 1924-25 there were 9,803,371 sheep and 2,790,054 lambs shorn, as compared with 9,463,675 sheep and 1,614,147 lambs in 1923-24, 9,920,239 sheep and 2,278,303 lambs in 1922-23, 10,072,358 sheep and 2,471,431 lambs in 1921-22, and 10,595,458 sheep and 1,725,305 lambs in 1920-21.

Weight of
a fleece.

The next table shows the production of wool per sheep and per lamb shorn in each of the last five years :—

WEIGHT OF A FLEECE, 1920-21 to 1924-25.

Year.	Weight of a Fleece.		
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep and Lambs combined.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1920-21	6·38	2·05	5·77
1921-22	7·23	2·17	6·23
1922-23	7·17	2·25	6·25
1923-24	6·74	2·18	6·08
1924-25	8·56	2·44	7·21

The production of wool in Victoria, the quantity and value of that used locally for manufacturing purposes, and the balance available for export, in each of the last five years, were as follows :—

WOOL PRODUCTION : HOME CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTABLE BALANCE; 1920-21 to 1924-25.

Year.	Production.		Used in Manufactures.		Available for Export.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
1920-21	90,250,571	4,729,400	12,799,590	639,980	77,450,981	4,089,420
1921-22	103,512,777	4,662,750	13,293,010	553,875	90,219,767	4,108,875
1922-23	102,467,950	6,380,600	15,926,225	995,389	86,541,725	5,385,211
1923-24	82,513,361	7,695,000	13,068,648	1,218,500	69,444,713	6,476,500
1924-25	106,787,897	11,444,240	14,420,497	1,644,500	92,367,400	9,799,740

The following information as to the average prices of wool per lb. which have prevailed during the last three seasons has been obtained from Melbourne wool brokers :—

PRICES OF WOOL, 1922-23 to 1924-25.

Class of Wool.	Average Price per lb. in—		
	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
GREASY MERINO.			
Extra Super (Western District)	34d. to 36d.	43d. to 44d.	38d. to 41d.
Super	27d. to 30d.	34d. to 38d.	31d. to 34d.
Good	23d. to 25d.	27d. to 28d.	25d. to 27d.
Average	18d. to 20d.	24d. to 26d.	22d. to 24d.
Wasty and Inferior	14d. to 16d.	19d. to 21d.	16d. to 18d.
Extra Super Lambs	28d. to 30d.	32d. to 34d.	28d. to 30d.
Super Lambs	20d. to 22d.	24d. to 27d.	21d. to 23d.
Good Lambs	16d. to 17d.	18d. to 20d.	16d. to 18d.
Average Lambs	13d. to 14d.	15d. to 18d.	13d. to 15d.
Inferior Lambs	6d. to 9d.	10d. to 12d.	7d. to 10d.
GREASY CROSSBRED.			
Extra Super Comebacks	29d. to 31d.	37d. to 40d.	32d. to 34d.
Super Comebacks	24d. to 26d.	30d. to 34d.	27d. to 30d.
Fine Crossbred	18d. to 20d.	24d. to 26d.	21d. to 23d.
Medium Crossbred	14d. to 16d.	18d. to 19d.	17d. to 18d.
Coarse Crossbred and Lincoln	7d. to 9d.	11d. to 13d.	12d. to 14d.
Super Fine Crossbred Lambs	20d. to 22d.	22d. to 24d.	20d. to 22d.
Good Crossbred Lambs	12d. to 14d.	16d. to 18d.	15d. to 17d.
Coarse and Lincoln Lambs	8d. to 10d.	10d. to 12d.	11d. to 13d.
SCOURED.			
Extra Super Fleece	46d. to 50d.	58d. to 62d.	50d. to 54d.
Super Fleece	40d. to 44d.	54d. to 56d.	45d. to 47d.
Good Fleece	32d. to 36d.	46d. to 50d.	38d. to 40d.
Average Fleece	24d. to 26d.	36d. to 44d.	29d. to 34d.
RECORD PRICES FOR THE SEASON.			
Greasy Merino Fleece	40½d.	46½d.	53½d.
„ Comeback Fleece	38½d.	42½d.	50½d.
„ Merino Lambs	41½d.	43½d.	48½d.
„ Comeback Lambs	28d.	37d.	41½d.
Scoured Fleece	57½d.	64d.	61d.

Flocks of
sheep in
districts.

Returns which were collected in March, 1925, give full information in regard to the flocks of sheep in Victoria. The numbers of flocks and of sheep at that time in the different districts were as follows :—

NUMBERS OF FLOCKS AND OF SHEEP IN DISTRICTS, 1925.

District.	Number of—		Average Number of Sheep to a Flock.	Percentage of—	
	Flocks.	Sheep.		Flocks.	Sheep.
Central	2,291	990,194	432	9·66	7·84
North-Central	2,098	1,190,606	567	8·84	9·43
Western	5,003	4,122,779	824	21·08	32·66
Wimmera	4,220	2,125,327	504	17·78	16·84
Mallee	1,849	665,674	360	7·79	5·27
Northern	4,647	1,971,660	424	19·58	15·62
North-Eastern	2,073	865,435	417	8·74	6·86
Gippsland	1,550	691,340	446	6·53	5·48
Total	23,731	12,623,015	532	100·00	100·00

The figures do not include 26,883 sheep which were travelling on roads or were located in cities and towns. Flocks were fewer in number in all districts, except the Mallee, in 1925 than in 1919. In the six years referred to the number of flocks decreased by 93 in the Central, 336 in the North-Central, 1,077 in the Western, 62 in the Wimmera, 639 in the Northern, 376 in the North-Eastern, and 1,359 in the Gippsland district, and increased by 335 in the Mallee, the total decrease for the State being 4,607, or 16 per cent. The average number of sheep to a flock showed a very marked decrease in the Mallee, and decreases less pronounced in the Wimmera, Northern, North-Eastern, and Gippsland districts, while in the Central, North-Central, and Western districts there were slight increases. The average number of sheep in a flock was 532 in 1925, as compared with 555 in 1919, 477 in 1917,

478 in 1913, 531 in 1910, 642 in 1908, and 706 in 1906. The number of sheep in the State decreased from 15,773,902 in 1919 to 12,649,898 in 1925. All divisions of the State showed substantial decreases during the six years under review.

Sizes of
flocks.

Excluding sheep travelling and those in cities and towns, the following table contains a classification for the whole State of sheep according to sizes of flocks :—

SHEEP ACCORDING TO SIZES OF FLOCKS, 1925.

Size of Flocks.	Number of—		Percentage of—	
	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.
Under 500	17,187	2,939,575	72·42	23·29
500 and under 1,000 ..	3,692	2,519,857	15·56	19·96
1,000 „ 2,000 ..	1,725	2,317,968	7·27	18·36
2,000 „ 5,000 ..	851	2,428,522	3·59	19·24
5,000 „ 10,000 ..	207	1,399,428	·87	11·09
10,000 „ 20,000 ..	62	824,643	·26	6·53
20,000 and upwards ..	7	193,022	·03	1·53
Total	23,731	12,623,015	100·00	100·00

A comparison of the above figures with those for 1919 shows that flocks of less than 500 sheep had decreased by 3,243, those of 500 to 1,000 by 647, 1,000 to 2,000 by 508, 2,000 to 5,000 by 104, 5,000 to 10,000 by 40, 10,000 to 20,000 by 49, and those of over 20,000 by 16. The decrease in the number of sheep in the whole State in the same period was 20 per cent. Six of the 7 largest, 42 of the 62 second largest flocks, and 130 of the 207 flocks of between 5,000 to 10,000 sheep in 1925 were in the Western District.

Areas of holdings and numbers and sizes of flocks of sheep.

The numbers and sizes of flocks of sheep on holdings of various areas, including those on Crown land not held conjointly with that privately owned, in March, 1925, are given in the next table. Although only 6,969 flocks, or 29 per cent. of the total number, were depastured on holdings of 900 acres and over, these accounted for 8,607,471 sheep, or 68 per cent. of the total.

AREAS OF HOLDINGS AND NUMBERS AND SIZES OF FLOCKS THEREON, 1925.

Area of Holdings. (Acres).		Number and Size of Flocks.														Total.	
		Under 500.		500 and under 1,000.		1,000 and under 2,000.		2,000 and under 5,000.		5,000 and under 10,000.		10,000 and under 20,000.		20,000 and upwards.			
		Number of Flocks.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Flocks.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Flocks.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Flocks.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Flocks.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Flocks.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Flocks.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Flocks.	Number of Sheep.
1 and under	200	3,663	298,499	69	43,539	14	17,657	3	7,781	1	7,800	..	..	..	..	3,750	375,276
200	321	3,162	457,305	161	101,294	25	30,769	5	13,022	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,353	602,390
321	"	3,111	574,331	326	209,522	38	45,313	4	9,820	1	7,160	1	13,102	..	..	3,481	859,248
500	641	2,526	496,909	507	330,298	70	86,091	12	32,507	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,115	945,805
641	"	2,108	466,885	787	530,157	152	188,145	14	36,168	2	11,470	..	..	..	..	3,063	1,232,825
900	1,500	2,049	494,290	1,242	867,638	578	746,369	82	201,935	3	18,061	..	..	..	..	3,954	2,328,293
1,500	"	479	125,962	487	356,025	584	809,394	214	547,658	6	38,791	..	..	..	..	1,770	1,877,830
2,500	5,000	79	22,459	106	76,677	236	352,652	405	1,204,758	33	192,386	1	10,063	1	29,000	861	1,887,995
5,000	"	10	2,935	6	4,207	26	39,508	106	354,864	120	802,244	11	125,435	..	..	279	1,329,193
10,000 and upwards	..	..	..	1	500	2	2,070	6	20,009	41	321,516	49	676,043	6	164,022	105	1,184,160
Total	..	17,187	2,939,575	3,692	2,519,857	1,725	2,317,968	851	2,428,522	207	1,399,428	62	824,643	7	193,022	23,731	12,623,015

NOTE.—Where Crown land is held in conjunction with privately-owned land, the holding is classified according to the area privately owned.

Production.

Live Stock
in Australia
and
New Zealand.

In the following statement are given the numbers of horses, cattle, sheep and pigs in the various Australian States and New Zealand, according to returns dated June, 1924, for the Federal Capital Territory; June, 1925, for New South Wales; March, 1925, for Victoria and Tasmania; January, 1925, for Queensland and New Zealand; and December, 1924, for South Australia, Western Australia, and the Northern Territory:—

LIVE STOCK IN AUSTRALASIA.

State, &c.	Horses.	Cattle.		Sheep.	Pigs.
		Dairy Cows.	Other.		
Victoria	473,236	760,207	845,347	12,649,898	288,509
New South Wales ..	647,503	982,850	1,893,404	42,925,177	339,669
Federal Capital Territory	1,433	6,085		132,400	434
Queensland	660,093	584,886	5,869,767	19,028,252	156,163
South Australia ..	255,022	163,407	237,016	6,359,240	80,988
Northern Territory	44,420	851,351		6,194	609
Western Australia ..	175,116	60,882	830,682	6,396,564	66,375
Tasmania	37,091	70,073	155,667	1,614,085	47,305
New Zealand	326,830	1,323,432	2,180,312	24,547,955	440,115

Bee-keeping.

The returns for 1924-25 show that there were in that year 3,483 bee-keepers, who owned 63,515 frame and 8,403 box hives, producing 3,951,439 lbs. and 103,536 lbs. of honey respectively, and 47,117 lbs. of beeswax. The number of bee-keepers owning 20 hives and upwards was 785, as compared with 668 in the previous season. In 1924-25, the quantity of honey produced in the Wimmera district was 1,257,850 lbs., in the North-Eastern district, 861,386 lbs., and in the Northern district, 841,057 lbs. The more important particulars of the industry for the last five years are given below.

BEE-KEEPING, 1920-21 to 1924-25.

Season ended May—			Number of Bee-keepers.	Number of Hives.	Honey produced.	Beeswax produced.
					lbs.	lbs.
1921			3,408	37,075	1,724,942	24,222
1922			4,046	50,147	2,712,675	32,737
1923			3,756	52,060	2,285,000	27,182
1924			3,535	60,760	2,110,713	25,371
1925			3,483	71,918	4,054,975	47,117

Active operations for the destruction of rabbits, &c., on Crown lands were first undertaken by the Government in 1880, and from that date to 30th June, 1925, sums amounting to £1,136,207 had been expended in connexion therewith, including subsidies to Shire Councils for the destruction of wild animals. The following are the amounts spent since 1879 :—

EXPENDITURE ON DESTRUCTION OF RABBITS, ETC.

	£		£
1879-80 to 1888-9 ..	142,963	1920-21 ..	36,158
1889-90 to 1898-9 ..	208,638	1921-22 ..	40,766
1899-1900 to 1908-9 ..	170,050	1922-23 ..	47,410
1909-10 to 1918-19 ..	283,693	1923-24 ..	85,489
1919-20 ..	36,672	1924-25 ..	84,368

In addition to the expenditure of £1,136,207 referred to above, sums have frequently been advanced from Loan Funds for the purchase of wire netting for supply to municipalities and land owners. The amounts of these advances in the last five years were as follows :—£44,380 in 1920-21, £15,447 in 1921-22, £23,731 in 1922-23, £26,275 in 1923-24, and £32,399 in 1924-25. A complete system, administered by an officer called the Chief Inspector under the Vermin Destruction Act, exists for effectually keeping the rabbits under control.

The quantity of rabbits, hares, and wild-fowl sold at the Melbourne Fish Market in each of the last five years was as shown in the following statement :—

RABBITS, HARES, AND WILD-FOWL SOLD AT THE MELBOURNE FISH MARKET, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Year ended June.	Rabbits.	Hares.	Wild-fowl.
	pairs.	brace.	brace.
1920-21	405,564	40	7,158
1921-22	429,372	8	21,708
1922-23	431,196	21	16,428
1923-24	448,656	42	8,148
1924-25	937,704	74	11,640

Large quantities of frozen rabbits and hares and of rabbit and hare skins have been exported to overseas countries, the numbers and values for each of the last five years being as follows :—

RABBITS AND HARES AND RABBIT AND HARE SKINS EXPORTED OVERSEA, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Year ended June.	Frozen Rabbits and Hares.		Rabbit and Hare Skins.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	pairs.	£	lbs.	£
1920-21	1,094,689	131,130	1,893,827	326,681
1921-22	454,052	35,385	2,623,228	201,921
1922-23	141,312	10,176	2,140,915	237,853
1923-24	80,499	8,477	2,073,613	282,266
1924-25	54,174	5,196	2,020,070	349,956

FISHERIES.

The numbers of men and boats engaged in the fishing industry at the different fishing stations throughout the State are given in the following table for the year 1924-25:—

VICTORIAN FISHERIES—MEN AND BOATS EMPLOYED, 1924-25.

Fishing Stations.	Number of Men.	Boats.		Value of Nets and other Plant.
		Number.	Value.	
Anderson's Inlet	11	7	£ 365	160
Anglesea River	2	2	40	25
Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove	9	5	850	115
Brighton	6	5	98	94
Corner Inlet, Welshpool, Toora, and Port Franklin	79	56	6,987	2,623
Dromana	36	24	1,275	450
Frankston	10	10	244	278
Geelong	55	29	3,008	974
Gippsland Lakes	208	146	13,509	5,306
Kerang	3	3	31	75
Lake Boga	3	3	30	36
Lorne	2	1	50	100
Lindsay R.	9	8	76	185
Mallacoota	5	3	225	97
Mentone	17	11	642	167
Mordialloc, Chelsea, and Carrum	54	43	2,152	544
Mornington	47	32	2,200	658
Portarlington and St. Leonards	91	57	4,092	1,668
Portland	49	31	4,123	522
Port Albert	57	37	3,850	1,201
Port Campbell	2	2	120	25
Port Fairy	44	30	5,850	372
Port Melbourne	47	31	3,261	487
Queenscliff	123	67	14,302	859
Rainbow	3	3	60	20
Sandringham	54	32	3,458	442
Sorrento, Portsea, and Rye	50	30	2,659	565
St. Kilda	16	10	328	154
Torquay	6	3	60	65
Warrnambool	9	8	520	66
Werribee	8	5	320	177
Waranga Basin	10	8	94	92
Western Port (Cowes, Hastings, Grantville, Flinders, San Remo, and Tooradin)	109	89	10,450	2,115
Williamstown	29	23	1,689	666
Wonthaggi	4	3	232	25
Total	1,267	857	87,250	21,408

The quantities and values of fish sold in the Melbourne Fish Market during each of the years 1923-24 and 1924-25 were as shown in the next table.

FISH SOLD IN THE MELBOURNE FISH MARKET,
1923-24 AND 1924-25.

		1923-24.		1924-25.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Fresh Fish (Victorian)	lbs.	8,174,520	£ 133,517	9,326,775	£ 133,295
Crayfish	doz.	33,105	29,795	46,414	41,773
Imported Fish (fresh or frozen)	lbs.	3,382,348	84,558	3,080,818	77,020
Oysters	bags	9,803	37,606	12,022	43,886
Total .. ..		..	285,476	..	295,974

In addition to the above, 11,003 cwt. of smoked fish, and 883 baskets of prawns were sold in this market in 1924-25.

Victorian fish sold. The quantity and value of fish caught in Victorian waters and sold in the Melbourne and Ballarat markets and elsewhere in 1924-25 were as follows :—

VICTORIAN FISH SOLD IN 1924-25.

Markets.			Quantity.		Value.	
			Fish.	Crayfish.	Fish.	Crayfish.
			lbs.	doz.	£	£
Melbourne			9,326,775	19,194	133,295	17,275
Ballarat			480,065	659	7,283	513
Other			280,172	974	4,004	876
Total			10,087,012	20,827	144,582	18,664

Fish imported. In connexion with this subject, the quantities and values of the different classes of fish imported are of interest. Particulars of imports from oversea countries in each of the last two years are given in the following statement :—

FISH IMPORTED, 1923-24 AND 1924-25.

				1923-24.		1924-25.	
				Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Fish—					£		£
Fresh or Frozen	lbs.	2,169,942	61,739	2,619,729	74,091		
Smoked .. ..	..	54,681	3,862	32,000	2,873		
Fresh Oysters	cwt.	368	269	1,646	1,222		
Potted or Concentrated, &c. ..	..	..	17,264	..	17,914		
Preserved in tins, &c. ..	lbs.	7,229,629	317,182	7,614,873	332,298		
N.E.I.	cwt.	2,516	7,934	3,043	9,043		
Total .. ..		..	408,250	..	437,441		

The most important item in this table is fish preserved in tins and other air-tight vessels, of which 3,533,729 lbs. came from Canada,

1,526,633 lbs. from Norway, 1,210,982 lbs. from the United Kingdom, and 1,092,925 lbs. from the United States of America, in 1924-25.

The figures relating to agriculture and live stock in Victoria and Great Britain in 1924 are, for comparative purposes, placed side by side in the table which follows :—

AGRICULTURE AND LIVE STOCK IN VICTORIA AND GREAT BRITAIN, 1924.

					Victoria.	Great Britain.
Area	..	..	..	acres	56,245,760	56,208,959
Wheat	..	..	..	bushels	47,364,495	52,714,667
Oats	..	..	..	..	9,572,003	123,200,000
Barley	..	..	..	..	1,444,823	51,206,400
Peas	..	..	..	..	256,160	2,994,992
Potatoes	..	..	..	tons	139,043	3,541,000
Turnips and swedes	..	..	..	..	1,847*	18,290,000
Mangolds	..	..	..	..	10,022	7,845,700
Hay	..	..	..	..	1,492,588	8,973,000
Horses	..	..	..	No.	473,236	1,189,884
Cattle	..	..	..	..	1,605,554	7,058,726
Sheep	..	..	..	..	12,649,898	21,729,347
Pigs	..	..	..	..	288,509	3,427,166

* Includes beet, carrots, and parsnips.

MINING.

The supervision of mining and the inspection of mines are regulated by Act of Parliament. Authority for all mining operations, whether on Crown or private lands, must be obtained in the prescribed manner, and mining leases giving the right to enter on private land for mining purposes may be issued to another than the owner.

Miners' Rights. The taking out of a "miner's right" entitles the holder to prospect for gold on Crown lands. The right may be had on payment of a sum of 2s. 6d. per annum and remains in force for any number of years not exceeding fifteen. The holder is entitled to take possession for mining purposes of a defined parcel of Crown lands, which is called a "claim." The revenue in 1924-25 from miners' rights was £2,100.

Mining Leases. Leases for the purpose of mining for gold are granted for a term not exceeding fifteen years at a yearly rental of 2s. 6d. per acre. For mining leases of land to be worked by means of dredging or hydraulic sluicing the yearly rent is 5s. per acre. Other mineral and coal mining leases are also issued at varying rates. The revenue from these sources in 1924-25 was £3,750.

The area of Crown and private lands under occupation for mining purposes on 31st December, 1924, was 43,216 acres. The subjoined table shows the area being worked for different minerals :—

AREA UNDER OCCUPATION FOR MINING PURPOSES,
31ST DECEMBER, 1924 (CROWN LAND AND PRIVATE
LAND).

Nature of Mineral, &c.						Area.
						acres.
Gold	..	..	..	..	..	28,867
Coal (ordinary)	..	..	..	..	..	4,447
Coal (brown)	..	..	..	..	..	759
Aluminium	..	..	..	..	..	37
Bismuth Wolfram and Molybdenite	..	..	..	..	..	29
Bluestone	..	..	..	..	..	22
Clay Slum	..	..	..	..	..	101
Copper	..	..	..	..	..	99
Copper and Silver	..	..	..	..	..	71
Dolomite and Clay	..	..	..	..	..	1
Granite	..	..	..	..	..	28
Gypsum	..	..	..	..	..	1,259
Hematite and Iron Ores	..	..	..	..	..	8
Infusorial Earth	..	..	..	..	..	9
Iron	..	..	..	..	..	315
Kaolin	..	..	..	..	..	69
Lead	..	..	..	..	..	80
Limestone	..	..	..	..	..	160
Limestone and Clay	..	..	..	..	..	27
Magnesite	..	..	..	..	..	126
Manganese	..	..	..	..	..	2,069
Manganese and Cobalt	..	..	..	..	..	19
Marble	..	..	..	..	..	6
Molybdenite	..	..	..	..	..	336
Molybdenite, Copper, and Silver	..	..	..	..	..	29
Oil	..	..	..	..	..	537
Oil and Gas	..	..	..	..	..	268
Pigments	..	..	..	..	..	5
Pigments and Clay	..	..	..	..	..	21
Pigments and Limestone	..	..	..	..	..	43
Quicksilver	..	..	..	..	..	55
Salt	..	..	..	..	..	45
Sand	..	..	..	..	..	49
Silicate of Alumina	..	..	..	..	..	71
Silver and Gold	..	..	..	..	..	129
Silver and Lead	..	..	..	..	..	196
Slate	..	..	..	..	..	55
Sulphates and Oil	..	..	..	..	..	224
Tin	..	..	..	..	..	1,536
Wolfram	..	..	..	..	..	9
Wolfram and Tin	..	..	..	..	..	454
Water-right Licences	..	..	..	..	..	546
Total	..	..	..	..	..	43,216

Mining development. The mining industry has been well fostered by the Government, not only in the way of financial assistance but also by means of geological surveys and boring. Apart from the annual expenditure of the Mines Department from consolidated revenue, of which a statement is appended, loan moneys amounting to £520,421 (including £249,399 expended on the State Coal Mine), and portions of surplus revenues of past years amounting to £85,000, had been expended or advanced for developmental purposes from 1st July, 1899, to 30th June, 1925.

STATE EXPENDITURE ON MINING, 1920-21 to 1924-25.

Item.	Expenditure from Consolidated Revenue.				
	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	£	£	£	£	£
Mines Department	27,359	26,785	27,085	26,176	24,567
State Coal Mine	385,105	499,076	436,753	519,536	458,380
Brown Coal Mine	75,186	44,426	48,886	45,830	*
Coal Mines Regulation—Sinking Fund and Depreciation Fund	22,419	82,786	22,342	39,628	37,002
Diamond drills for prospecting ..	10,992	9,809	9,411	10,597	12,476
Testing plants	4,643	3,212	3,148	3,499	3,571
Geological and underground surveys of mines	2,443	2,506	3,071	3,436	3,591
Mining Development—					
Advances to companies, &c., boring for gold, coal, &c. ..	9,006	8,161	6,963	6,711	8,739
Miscellaneous	1,702	2,024	1,806	2,107	2,431
Total	538,855	678,785	559,465	657,520	550,757

* The control of the Brown Coal Mine was transferred to the Electricity Commissioners on 1st April, 1924.

Yearly grants are also made to Schools of Mines, particulars of which will be found on page 355 of this work. Since 1st July, 1899, £520,421 has been apportioned from loan receipts and expended on mining development; details of this expenditure appear in the next statement:—

LOAN MONEY EXPENDED ON MINING DEVELOPMENT.

	£
Advances to companies—Development of mining ..	62,740
„ „ Boring for gold and coal, &c. ..	62,532
Construction of roads and tracks for mining purposes ..	57,579
Plant for testing metalliferous material	12,357
Construction of races and dams	8,260
Advances to miners for prospecting	27,839
Purchase of cyanide process patent rights	20,000
Equipping Schools of Mines with mining appliances ..	9,975
State Coal Mine	249,399
Miscellaneous	9,740
Total	520,421

The advances from loan moneys and revenue to mining companies to 30th June, 1925, for the development of mining, totalled £262,292, of which sum £40,630 had up to that date been repaid, £50,732 realized, and £143,358 written off, leaving £27,572 outstanding. Interest received during 1924-25 amounted to £348, and interest outstanding on 30th June, 1925, to £2,513.

The mineral production of the State is summarized in the subjoined statement, which contains particulars of the recorded production of all metals and minerals up to the end of the year 1924.

TOTAL MINERAL PRODUCTION TO 31st DECEMBER 1924.

Metals and Minerals.	Recorded prior to 1924.		Recorded during 1924.		Total Recorded to end of 1924.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Fine ozs.	£	Fine ozs.	£	Fine ozs.	£
Gold ...	71,062,534	301,853,680	67,167	285,316	71,129,701	302,138,996
Silver ..	1,455,137	221,349	4,216	645	1,459,353*	221,994
Platinum ..	30,577	7,880	..	..	30,577	7,880
	311	1,671	..	..	311	1,671
Coal, black ..	tons. 10,206,735	6,804,598	tons. 518,315	569,555	tons. 10,725,050	7,374,153
" brown ..	760,831	256,172	127,490	41,116	878,321	297,288
Ore—copper ..	18,730	218,590	..	..	18,730	218,590
" tin ..	16,788	925,965	38	6,056	16,826	932,021
" antimony ..	104,754	592,133	827	14,522	105,581	606,655
" silver-lead ..	793	5,760	..	..	793	5,760
" iron ..	5,434	12,540	..	..	5,434	12,540
" manganese ..	407	1,949	..	..	407	1,949
Wolfram ..	118	11,785	..	..	118	11,785
Diamonds ..	..	128	..	..	..	128
Sapphires, &c. ..	..	630	..	..	..	630
Gypsum ..	63,470	45,933	13,268	11,818	76,738	57,751
Magnesite ..	1,566	4,716	76	228	1,632	4,944
Kaolin ..	24,865	31,617	1,741	2,683	26,606	34,300
Diatomaceous earth ..	8,057	33,137	..	..	8,057	33,137
Pigment clays ..	1,770	2,694	76	514	1,846	3,208
Phosphate rock ..	12,648	13,631	532	532	13,180	14,163
Molybdenite ..	750	13,166	42	4,850	792†	18,016
Fluorspar ..	623	1,888	..	..	623	1,888
Bluestone, freestone, granite, &c.‡ ..	..	7,435,661	..	530,820	..	7,966,481
Limestone, &c.§ ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	318,497,273	..	1,468,655	..	319,965,928

* Extracted from gold at the Melbourne Mint. † Concentrates. ‡ From 1866 only.
§ Record from 1900.

NOTE.—The value of gold as shown above is based on the average value of Victorian gold received at the Melbourne Mint.

Gold mining. Gold was first found in Victoria in 1849 in the Pyrenees Ranges, but it was not until 1851 that the first discovery of any importance took place. In the latter part of that year the Clunes, Anderson's Creek, Ballarat, and Bendigo fields were successively discovered, and over 200,000 ounces of gold were produced. Next year the gold rush took place, and it is estimated that, in 1852, 40,000 men were camped at Ballarat, 25,000 at Castlemaine, and 40,000 at Bendigo. The production of gold in 1852 amounted to 2,286,535 ounces, and in the ten years 1852-1861 it totalled over 25,000,000 ounces. The largest quantity produced in any one year was 3,053,744 ounces in 1856. The annual value of the output for the ten years 1852-1861 averaged over £10,000,000 sterling. The estimated value of the gold produced from 1851 to 1924 was £302,138,996, as shown in the preceding statement.

**Gold raised
in Victoria.**

The quantities of gold raised in Victoria in different periods are shown in the next table :—

GOLD RAISED IN VICTORIA, 1851 TO 1924.

Period.	Quantity (Fine ozs.).	Period.	Quantity (Fine ozs.).
1851-60	23,334,263*	1911-15	2,161,349
1861-70	16,276,566*	1916-20	905,561
1871-80	10,156,297*	1921	104,512
1881-90	7,103,448*	1922	106,872
1891-1900	7,476,038*	1923	95,403
1901-10	7,095,061	1924	67,167

* Gross ozs.

The yield has been on the down grade since 1906, the return for the State for 1924 having been the lowest since 1851. The quantities raised in the other principal gold-producing States in 1924 were 485,035 ounces in Western Australia, 98,841 ounces in Queensland, and 18,685 ounces in New South Wales. The total production of gold in the world in 1923, as shown in the United States Mint Report, was 17,750,765 ounces.

**Mining
district
gold yields.**

The yield of gold for the last two years in each mining district of the State, as estimated by the mining registrars, is shown in the following table. The quantities represented by the aggregate figures, which are given in gross

ounces, exceed the total output of 1923 by 84 ounces, and that of 1924 by 480 ounces :—

**DISTRICT YIELDS OF GOLD, ALLUVIAL AND QUARTZ,
1923 AND 1924.**

Mining District.	1923.			1924.		
	Alluvial.	Quartz.	Total.	Alluvial.	Quartz.	Total.
	OZS.	OZS.	OZS.	OZS.	OZS.	OZS.
Ararat and Stawell ..	4,647	516	5,163	2,839	32	2,871
Ballarat ..	1,007	785	1,792	1,216	904	2,120
Beechworth ..	7,871	25,067	32,938	4,762	20,716	25,478
Bendigo ..	361	44,896	45,257	440	28,097	28,537
Castlemaine ..	1,763	15,751	17,514	1,544	12,007	13,551
Gippsland ..	1,198	469	1,667	654	724	1,378
Maryborough ..	387	477	864	351	832	1,183
Total ..	17,234	87,961	105,195	11,806	63,312	75,118

The amount of the dividends declared in each of the last five years by gold-mining companies operating in each mining district of the State was as follows :—

**DIVIDENDS PAID BY GOLD MINING COMPANIES IN EACH
MINING DISTRICT, 1920 to 1924.**

Mining District.	Amount Distributed.				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£
Ararat and Stawell ..	..	..	..	..	..
Ballarat ..	..	13	..	1,635	475
Beechworth ..	36,690	13,455	18,450	9,000	..
Bendigo ..	44,226	6,750	20,250	37,872	13,500
Castlemaine ..	11,595	5,830	17,883	12,459	..
Gippsland ..	2,668	1,096	..	..	..
Maryborough ..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	95,179	27,144	56,583	60,966	13,975

The average number of men employed in gold mining is **Gold miners.** estimated annually by the Mines Department. The figures for the last five years are given below :—

NUMBER OF MEN EMPLOYED IN GOLD MINING, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.				Alluvial Miners.	Quartz Miners.	Total.
1920	..	..	..	1,138	2,604	3,742
1921	..	..	..	1,073	1,977	3,050
1922	..	..	..	1,048	2,262	3,310
1923	..	..	..	770	2,212	2,982
1924	..	..	..	816	1,835	2,651

The number of men employed in each mining district in 1924 was as follows :—Ararat and Stawell, 156 ; Ballarat, 69 ; Bendigo, 1,085 ; Beechworth, 696 ; Castlemaine, 330 ; Gippsland, 150 ; and Maryborough, 115.

The value of the mining plants employed in alluvial and quartz mining during each of the last five years was **Value of machinery on gold-fields.** as shown hereunder :—

VALUE OF MACHINERY ON GOLD-FIELDS, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.				Approximate Value of Machinery Employed in—		
				Alluvial Mining.	Quartz Mining.	Total.
				£	£	£
1920	..	..	..	181,400	703,416	884,816
1921	..	..	..	156,642	508,643	665,285
1922	..	..	..	135,295	508,630	643,925
1923	..	..	..	133,200	486,300	619,500
1924	..	..	..	95,777	381,050	476,827

A feature of alluvial mining in Victoria for the last **Dredging and sluicing.** twenty-three years has been the treatment in bulk of low-grade auriferous alluvial deposits and their overburden by bucket dredges and pump hydraulic sluicing plants on barges. In 1924,

the number of pump hydraulic sluices at work was 3, in addition to which 11 jet elevators and 3 gravitation plants were operating. Particulars relating to these dredging and sluicing plants for the last five years are as follows :—

DREDGING AND SLUICING, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.			Number of Plants.	Area Worked.	Quantity of Material Treated.	Gold Obtained.	Tin Obtained.
				acres.	cub. yds.	ozs.	tons.
1920	..	..	43	130	4,179,778	19,855	78
1921	..	..	42	99	3,554,674	15,734	78
1922	..	..	32	41	1,736,735	11,939	115
1923	..	..	24	27	1,294,300	9,017	77
1924	..	..	17	13	1,198,900	5,260	38

These plants employed 139 men in 1924. The yield of gold in that year per cubic yard of material was 2·1 grains. Since the inception of dredge mining 1,880,357 ounces of gold and 1,579 tons of tin have been won by this system.

Cyanidation. The quantity of tailings treated at old lode and alluvial mines by the cyanide process and the yield of gold therefrom are shown in the subjoined table for the last five years :—

CYANIDATION, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.				Number of Plants.	Quantity of Tailings Treated.	Yield of Gold.	Value of Yield.
					tons.	ozs.	£
1920	..	..	..	28	37,596	4,226	16,216
1921	..	..	..	20	39,937	5,326	17,212
1922	..	..	..	12	41,163	5,847	22,654
1923	..	..	..	14	18,644	3,415	13,445
1924	..	..	..	14	12,108	2,052	7,637

Records show that the total amount of tailings which have been treated by the cyanide and other processes is 15,994,539 tons, and that the gold which has been won thereby amounts to 1,280,758 ounces, which is equal to an average yield of 1 dwt. 14 grs. per ton.

A Sludge Abatement Board, appointed by the Government, is intrusted with the duty of regulating the disposal of mining sludge, and preventing the silting of streams and injury to lands by battery sand and infertile debris.

Government batteries. Batteries for testing small quantities of ore for prospectors have been erected by the Government in various mining districts. The number of these plants and their operations in the last five years were as follows :—

GOVERNMENT BATTERIES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.					Number of Batteries.	Quantity of Ore Treated.	Yield of Gold.
						tons.	ozs.
1920	..	..	..	..	33	2,664	2,849
1921	..	..	..	..	34	1,748	1,367
1922	..	..	..	..	34	1,286	1,424
1923	..	..	..	..	34	1,000	649
1924	..	..	..	..	31	895	776

Since 1897, the year in which the first battery was erected, 74,085 tons of ore have been crushed for 51,575 ounces of gold.

Coal mining. Bituminous coal is found in three main areas in the southern portion of the State, viz., the Wannon, the Otway, and South Gippsland. The Wannon area is comparatively unprospected, owing to almost the whole of the land having been sold. In the Otway area bores have been sunk without disclosing seams of payable thickness. The South Gippsland area occupies about 2,000 square miles, and coal mining is being carried on at Wonthaggi, Kilcunda, Outtrim, Jumbunna, and Korumburra.

Brown coal. The brown coal beds of Victoria have an approximate area of 1,200 square miles, and are reputed to be the thickest known. At Morwell, 780 feet of coal were passed through in a bore 1,010 feet deep. It is estimated that the average thickness of the coal in the deposits at Morwell, Alberton, and Altona is 50 feet, and that the total deposits in the State amount to 11,000,000,000 tons. These deposits are practically untouched, as the total output of brown coal for all years has been only 878,321 tons (valued at £297,288), of which 127,490 tons were obtained in 1924. Of the total output for that year 126,028 tons valued at £40,251 were obtained from the State Brown Coal Mine at Morwell.

The State coal-field. The State coal mine at Wonthaggi, on the Powlett River, was opened in November, 1909. In June, 1911, the control of the mine was transferred to the Railways Commissioners. The area reserved for mining is about 17 square miles. Boring has

proved that about 28,000,000 tons of coal existed in the central area of 5 square miles. The output of coal for the year ended 31st December, 1924, was 452,032 tons, valued at £487,235. The total output up to the end of 1924 was 6,451,435 tons, valued at £4,695,961. The average number of men employed at the mine throughout the year ended 30th June, 1925, was 1,688.

The quantity of coal, exclusive of brown coal, raised in Victoria up to the end of 1924 was 10,725,050 tons, valued at £7,374,153. The total quantity raised prior to 1892, the average annual production for different periods from 1892 to 1920, and the production for each of the years 1921 to 1924, together with the value per ton at the pit's mouth, are given in the following table :—

COAL PRODUCTION AND VALUE PER TON.

Period.	Average Annual Production.			Average Annual Value per ton at pit's mouth.	
	tons.			s. d.	
Prior to 1892	*77,914			18	8
1892-1900	184,517			9	11
1901-10	168,548			11	8
1911-15	608,512			9	2
1916-20	437,833			15	11
1921	514,859			23	5
1922	559,284			23	9
1923	476,823			22	0
1924	518,315			22	0

* Total production up to date mentioned.

The quantities of coal produced in the other States in 1924 were as follows :—New South Wales, 11,618,216 tons; Queensland, 1,123,117 tons; Western Australia, 421,864 tons; and Tasmania, 75,988 tons.

The numbers of fatal and non-fatal accidents in gold and coal mines during the last five years are shown below. Only those non-fatal accidents have been recorded which rendered the injured unfit for work for a period of at least fourteen days.

MINING ACCIDENTS, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	Gold Mines.			Coal Mines.		
	Miners Employed.	Persons Killed.	Persons Injured.	Miners Employed.	Persons Killed.	Persons Injured.
1920	3,724	3	13	2,011	1	5
1921	3,050	5	2	1,994	5	11
1922	3,310	..	4	1,953	..	11
1923	2,982	1	6	2,131	1	11
1924	2,651	..	2	2,289	3	17

As a result of gold mining accidents during the last five years 9 persons were killed and 27 were injured and rendered unfit for work for a period of at least fourteen days. These numbers were equivalent to annual rates of 0·57 and 1·72 respectively per 1,000 employed. Coal mining accidents during the same period accounted for 10 deaths and 55 injuries resulting in disablement for at least fourteen days, these being equal to yearly rates of 0·96 and 5·30 respectively per 1,000 employees.

The record of boring operations conducted by the Boring for gold and coal. Mines Department during the last five years is as follows :—

GOVERNMENT BORING OPERATIONS, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	Drills worked by—		Bores put down for—			Total Depth Bored.
	Steam.	Other Power.	Gold.	Coal.	Total.	
1920	2	13	5	358	363	feet.
1921	1	14	20	400	420	37,957
1922	1	14	6	182	188	40,000
1923 .. ..	..	12	4	67	71	25,200
1924	1	12	16	74	90	19,270
						34,000

Antimony. Up to the end of 1924 the quantity of antimony ore produced in Victoria was 105,581 tons valued at £606,655. Nearly the whole of it was obtained at Costerfield. The production for 1924 yielded 276 tons of concentrates valued at £14,522. For the previous year the yield was 822 tons of concentrates valued at £14,112.

Tin. The production of tin ore in the State up to the end of 1924 was 16,826 tons, valued at £932,021. In the year 1924 the quantity produced was 38 tons, as against 78 tons in the preceding year, and 115 tons in 1922. Of the tin won during the last five years nearly the whole was obtained in the Beechworth district.

Gypsum. The quantity of gypsum produced in the State in 1924 was 13,268 tons, all of which was obtained at Waitchie, Lake Boga, Bolton, Boort, and Cowangie. The output for the previous year was 12,761 tons, which was obtained almost entirely at Lake Boga, Bolton, and Waitchie. Up to the end of 1924 the quantity raised in Victoria was 76,738 tons, valued at £57,751.

Kaolin. The quantity of kaolin produced in 1924 was 1,741 tons, and in the previous year, 2,307 tons. Up to the end of 1924 the total output was 26,606 tons, valued at £34,300.

Molybdenite. The total value of molybdenite produced in the State up to the end of 1924 was £18,016. In the year 1924 the output was valued at £4,850, as against £6,250 in 1923. The whole of the output was obtained at Everton, near Beechworth.

Quarries. The quantity and value of stone raised from Victorian quarries during the last five years were as set forth in the following table :—

QUARRIES, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Year ended June—	Number of Quarries.	Quantity of Stone Operated on—				Approximate Value of Stone Raised.
		Bluestone.	Free-stone.	Granite.	Limestone.	
		c. yds.	c. yds.	c. yds.	c. yds.	£
1921 ..	105	1,068,131	417	1,485	56,031	340,450
1922 ..	112	1,212,637	4,437	1,515	58,073	369,030
1923 ..	106	1,244,262	10,776	1,775	73,448	384,510
1924 ..	105	1,429,719	2,536	2,242	74,474	436,175
1925 ..	117	1,504,093	1,926	2,387	61,171	497,270

In 1924-25 the number of persons employed in quarries was 2,405, and the wages paid amounted to £492,119. These figures include the employees and wages connected with stone-breaking and tar-paving works, most of which are carried on in conjunction with quarries and cannot be separated therefrom.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.**Industrial
progress.**

The earliest year for which there are statistical records of the factories of the State is 1850, at which date the number of manufacturing establishments is shown to have been 68. Subsequently fair and regular progress was made in the industry until in 1900, the year before Federation, there were 3,097 factories working. The years immediately following Federation were marked by increased industrial activity, which was well maintained in later years. During the last ten years nearly all existing lines of manufacture have shown a notable expansion, and many industries new to the State have been firmly established. Since 1915 the number of factories has increased by 37 per cent., the number of persons employed by 35 per cent., the amount of salaries and wages paid by 163 per cent., the value of output by 130 per cent., the value of machinery and plant and premises by 171 per cent., and the engine power of factories by 218 per cent. The difference between the cost of materials used and the value of the output was equivalent to an added value of £343 12s. 5d. per person employed in 1924-25, as compared with £182 3s. 5d. in 1915. This favorable economic result coincides with a larger proportion of establishments using mechanical power in 1924-25, when 83 per cent. were so equipped, as against 76 per cent. in 1915, and with the increased aggregate engine power of factories previously referred to. The increase in the added value relatively to employees, the larger proportion of factories using power, and the higher aggregate power of establishments as a whole are indications of increasing industrial efficiency. The proportion of children employed in factories to total employees decreased from 5·12 per cent. in 1915 to 4·94 per cent. in 1924-25.

Since 1915 the number of factories employing over 100 hands has increased by 23·4 per cent., and the number of hands employed by such factories has increased by 27·7 per cent. While factories of this size formed only 3·1 per cent. of the total number in the State in 1924-25, they employed 41·4 per cent. of the total number of hands. The figures relating to distinct industries show that steady progress has been maintained in almost every class of factory during recent years. This is most noticeable in industries associated with the manufacture of clothing and textile fabrics (including boots) and with the preparation of food, &c.

The appended table summarizes the position of the industries at various stages since 1871, but, except for the period 1911 to 1924-25, the information for different years is not strictly comparable, for the reason that it has not been compiled upon the same basis throughout.

GROWTH IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Number of Persons employed.	Amount of Salaries and Wages paid.	Value of Plant, Machinery, Land, and Buildings.	Value of Output.
			£	£	£
1871 ..	1,740	19,468	*	4,725,125	*
1881 ..	2,488	43,209	*	8,044,296	†13,370,836
1891 ..	3,141	52,225	*	16,472,859	‡22,390,251
1901 ..	3,249	66,529	*	12,298,500	\$19,478,780
1911 ..	5,126	111,948	8,911,019	18,257,889	41,747,863
1912 ..	5,263	116,108	10,102,244	19,457,795	45,410,773
1913 ..	5,613	118,744	10,714,336	20,775,738	47,936,647
1914 ..	5,650	118,399	11,099,940	21,975,646	49,439,985
1915 ..	5,413	113,834	11,036,345	22,529,072	51,466,093
1916-17 ..	5,445	116,970	11,833,517	23,784,289	60,047,284
1917-18 ..	5,627	118,241	12,502,601	25,460,282	67,066,715
1918-19 ..	5,720	122,349	14,080,403	27,318,735	80,195,677
1919-20 ..	6,038	136,522	17,702,173	30,804,520	101,475,363
1920-21 ..	6,532	140,743	21,377,216	35,492,735	106,008,294
1921-22 ...	6,753	144,876	23,846,495	40,992,280	106,243,181
1922-23 ..	7,096	152,625	25,547,192	46,423,240	111,286,343
1923-24 ..	7,289	156,162	27,472,084	53,196,475	113,921,927
1924-25 ..	7,425	154,158	29,057,052	61,031,975	118,177,398

* Particulars not available.

† 1880.

‡ 1890.

\$ 1900.

NOTE.—Up to the year 1915 inclusive the statistics relate to the calendar year ; for subsequent years they relate to the year ending 30th June.

The first Factories Act in Victoria was passed in 1873, and since that year many other Acts dealing with the subject have been placed upon the statute-book. The *Factories and Shops Act* 1915 (No. 2650) consolidated all Acts passed prior to that date. The general provisions of factory legislation, including "Wages Boards," are fully dealt with in Part "Social Condition" of this work.

In the year 1902 the classification of industries for statistical purposes, as shown in the next table, was adopted by the Statisticians of Australia. A factory was defined as an establishment employing on the average four persons or more, or an establishment employing less than four persons where machinery is worked by other than manual power, whether the business carried on is that of making or repairing for the trade (wholesale or retail) or for export. The table shows for the year 1924-25 the number of factories in each industry, the power used, the number of persons employed, the wages paid, the values of materials and fuel and light used, and the value of articles produced or work done :—

Factories and Wages Board Legislation.

Production of different industries, 1924-25.

FACTORIES—POWER, WORKERS, WAGES, ETC., AND PRODUCTION, 1924-25.

Nature of Industry.	Number of Manufactories.	Actual Horse-power of Engines used.	Average Number of Persons Employed.				Value of—			
			Males.		Females.		Wages paid.	Fuel and Light used.	Materials used.	Articles Produced or Work Done.
			Working Proprietors.	Employees.	Working Proprietors.	Employees.				
<i>Class I.—Treating Raw Material the product of Pastoral Pursuits, or Vegetable Products, not otherwise classed.</i>							£	£	£	£
Boiling down	9	180	10	143	..	..	41,463	7,072	190,487	266,762
Bone milling	15	755	15	106	..	4	28,227	14,857	51,044	141,443
Tanning	47	4,365	67	2,269	..	20	559,822	47,261	1,677,544	2,673,149
Fellmongering	29	1,555	32	423	..	4	101,813	25,456	1,778,843	2,020,893
Chaffcutting and grain crushing ..	166	2,702	150	639	..	13	89,892	13,533	773,520	954,934
Other	8	52	4	178	..	..	47,599	625	114,942	205,941
Total	274	9,609	278	3,758	..	41	868,816	108,804	4,586,380	6,263,122
<i>Class II.—Oils and Fats, Animal and Vegetable.</i>										
Oil, grease, glue	10	260	4	205	..	27	56,784	11,829	399,699	547,777
Soap and candle	17	806	13	554	..	147	143,779	27,877	735,210	1,176,919
Total	27	1,066	17	759	..	174	200,563	39,706	1,134,909	1,724,696

*Class III.—Processes relating to
Stone, Clay, Glass, &c.*

Brick, pottery, &c. ..	102	8,740	72	2,845	2	150	655,034	232,258	91,016	1,337,595
Cement, including cement pipes ..	31	3,151	14	759	..	4	194,838	111,593	236,372	942,034
Glass, including bottles ..	5	1,560	11	810	..	12	211,080	73,747	93,664	530,588
Glass bevelling ..	27	108	20	255	..	4	63,443	1,340	96,000	199,473
Marble and stone dressing ..	43	532	57	401	..	7	120,454	3,615	77,873	266,199
Modelling ..	35	492	46	424	1	10	108,383	4,754	146,357	334,114
Other ..	18	372	10	265	..	2	60,305	25,459	21,835	116,704
Total ..	261	14,955	230	5,759	3	189	1,413,537	452,766	763,117	3,726,707

Class IV.—Working in Wood.

Cooperage ..	9	298	6	234	..	..	69,669	1,998	41,929	145,241
Saw-milling (forest) ..	234	5,123	305	3,002	..	11	667,684	6,054	1,782	1,146,877
Saw-milling, moulding, &c. ..	425	13,606	396	5,518	2	101	1,370,699	46,005	2,286,476	4,315,583
Mantelpiece ..	9	83	9	172	..	3	40,763	628	33,971	89,467
Wood carving, turning ..	20	457	21	246	1	7	64,722	2,366	56,557	152,257
Other ..	8	155	8	122	..	34	33,369	1,399	44,220	96,051
Total ..	705	19,722	745	9,294	3	156	2,246,906	58,450	2,464,935	5,945,476

Class V.—Metal Works, Machinery, &c.

Agricultural implement ..	61	2,389	60	2,996	..	104	730,219	46,501	785,247	1,822,006
Engineering, iron foundry, &c. ..	530	12,335	599	9,821	4	170	2,389,329	164,768	2,393,110	6,051,309
Railway workshop ..	18	4,156	..	5,882	..	6	1,289,834	34,510	1,557,517	3,254,715
Nail ..	9	439	5	181	..	3	38,572	2,427	164,137	222,277
Sheet-iron, tin, &c. ..	103	914	86	1,794	2	253	395,586	16,007	647,726	1,286,779
Brass, copper smithing ..	99	848	117	1,096	..	52	276,097	14,458	232,021	639,236
Wireworking ..	26	488	29	348	..	23	90,764	3,034	209,182	378,302
Metallurgical, &c., cyanide ..	8	57	12	58	..	1	16,559	2,544	112,857	149,563
Oven, range ..	19	137	24	180	..	..	50,883	2,470	41,158	114,934
Other ..	50	877	47	500	1	10	122,038	11,171	210,605	447,477
Total ..	923	22,640	979	22,856	7	622	5,399,881	297,890	6,353,560	14,366,598

FACTORIES—POWER, WORKERS, WAGES, ETC., AND PRODUCTION, 1924-25—continued.

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Victorian Year-Book, 1924-25.

Nature of Industry.	Number of Manufactories.	Actual Horse-power of Engines used.	Average Number of Persons Employed.				Value of—			
			Males.		Females.		Wages paid.	Fuel and Light used.	Materials used.	Articles Produced or Work Done.
			Working Proprietors.	Employees.	Working Proprietors.	Employees.				
							£	£	£	£
<i>Class VI.—Connected with Food and Drink, &c.</i>										
Bacon curing	21	1,542	27	485	..	19	129,474	20,539	1,257,862	1,571,357
Butter, cheese, butterine	192	5,713	32	2,196	..	254	578,728	161,848	6,953,033	8,394,238
Meat freezing, preserving	13	5,039	2	1,021	..	31	196,869	31,908	1,768,735	2,188,859
Biscuit	8	533	4	803	..	633	224,179	22,964	671,272	1,134,206
Flourmilling	46	5,363	33	1,008	..	23	267,034	58,196	5,363,466	6,218,248
Jam, sauce, &c.	52	1,161	27	1,439	4	1,031	419,295	30,948	1,227,953	2,090,690
Oatmeal, starch, &c.	38	2,071	22	379	..	351	133,177	21,220	824,387	1,192,273
Sugar, confectionery, &c.	119	9,321	100	2,267	22	1,909	779,113	145,073	4,651,513	6,647,402
Aerated water, cordial, &c.	112	507	115	777	8	85	196,191	7,563	292,002	705,197
Malt	22	452	12	266	2	2	77,082	17,929	469,967	687,673
Brewing	14	5,204	6	1,256	..	1	344,348	80,406	1,061,574	2,479,619
Distilling	10	572	1	112	..	4	28,333	8,987	54,085	129,655
Condiments, coffee, cocoa, &c.	15	817	8	224	..	109	67,166	8,027	439,754	625,997
Tobacco, &c.	13	711	17	1,156	..	645	348,792	6,483	1,312,182	2,200,459
Other	46	3,910	35	345	3	33	95,609	34,757	58,883	295,026
Total	721	42,916	441	13,734	39	5,130	3,885,390	656,848	26,406,668	36,560,899

*Class VII.—Clothing and Textile
Fabrics, and Fibrous Material.*

Woollen mill	28	10,778	22	2,202	..	2,853	727,092	103,532	2,173,423	3,433,231
Clothing, tailoring, &c. ..	534	608	503	1,718	35	7,597	1,310,790	22,778	2,081,605	3,965,405
Dressmaking and millinery ..	492	473	144	279	322	7,594	877,470	12,895	1,713,614	3,047,653
Underclothing, shirt ..	170	898	88	342	75	5,034	647,507	13,898	1,525,949	2,636,628
Hat, cap	55	839	49	643	5	999	305,743	16,252	447,012	952,486
Hosiery	172	1,164	99	549	88	3,691	506,631	19,135	1,236,374	2,275,145
Oilskin, waterproof clothing ..	8	50	7	66	..	188	42,411	1,132	106,555	180,631
Boot, shoe	430	3,249	492	6,455	19	5,133	2,054,563	41,029	2,913,105	5,832,625
Fur	45	121	43	141	15	302	76,306	1,541	231,303	361,257
Rope, twine, &c. ..	7	1,557	10	491	..	390	149,068	13,173	371,140	662,598
Sail, tent, &c. ..	19	39	21	113	..	102	43,772	605	165,498	253,188
Other	40	313	33	224	10	447	101,523	7,348	216,296	389,965
Total	2,000	20,089	1,511	13,223	569	34,330	6,842,876	253,318	13,181,874	23,990,812

*Class VIII.—Books, Paper, Printing,
Engraving, &c.*

Printing	431	6,137	507	5,902	12	1,652	1,825,147	50,570	1,656,452	4,433,726
Account-book, stationery, &c. ..	34	666	37	668	2	617	213,833	5,838	299,311	645,723
Fancy box	38	508	30	287	8	817	167,010	4,030	315,648	600,444
Die sinking, engraving, &c. ..	21	144	25	213	..	24	49,975	1,390	36,531	118,096
Other	32	2,443	35	704	2	161	200,620	55,278	280,843	726,065
Total	556	9,898	634	7,774	24	3,271	2,456,585	117,106	2,588,785	6,524,054

Class IX.—Musical Instruments

	20	356	12	439	..	16	107,289	2,652	120,132	280,812
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Class X.—Arms and Explosives

	9	664	1	265	..	162	89,774	12,900	176,109	361,712
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Production.

FACTORIES—POWER, WORKERS, WAGES, ETC., AND PRODUCTION, 1924-25—continued.

Nature of Industry.	Number of Manufactories.	Actual Horse-power of Engines used.	Average Number of Persons Employed.				Value of—			
			Males.		Females.		Wages paid.	Fuel and Light used.	Materials used.	Articles Produced or Work Done.
			Working Proprietors.	Employees.	Working Proprietors.	Employees.				
							£	£	£	£
<i>Class XI.—Vehicles and Fittings, Saddlery, Harness, &c.</i>										
Coachbuilding	286	1,287	333	2,217	..	25	499,528	15,110	451,815	1,152,252
Motor, Cycle, &c.	505	1,768	397	3,383	..	87	756,762	25,016	467,711	1,625,386
Saddle, harness	35	26	37	233	..	47	59,929	480	79,251	162,565
Other	20	88	29	184	..	12	40,969	914	48,703	121,413
Total	846	3,169	796	6,017	..	171	1,357,188	41,520	1,047,480	3,061,616
<i>Class XII.—Shipbuilding, Fitting, &c.</i>	11	1,383	9	421	..	2	105,763	5,001	26,423	163,696
<i>Class XIII.—Furniture, Bedding, &c.</i>										
Upholstery, bedding, &c. ..	74	597	47	641	4	374	186,968	5,808	455,503	768,978
Cabinet, including billiard table ..	324	2,672	408	2,904	4	112	677,777	17,344	724,344	1,707,373
Picture frame	18	51	18	67	..	10	18,837	408	25,141	53,299
Other	9	123	5	163	1	24	38,207	2,461	72,248	131,171
Total	425	3,443	478	3,775	9	520	921,789	26,021	1,277,236	2,660,821

Class XIV.—Drugs, Chemicals, and By-products.

Blackening, blue, &c.	..	..	23	175	16	165	..	159	59,273	2,298	255,083	406,648
Chemicals, drugs, &c.	..	..	52	1,553	24	652	1	578	240,267	25,518	462,695	969,851
Fertilizers	..	..	8	1,795	1	876	..	10	226,929	40,675	834,806	1,442,984
Other	..	..	48	399	34	238	1	19	45,544	2,223	105,818	193,671
Total	..	..	131	3,922	75	1,931	2	766	572,013	70,714	1,658,402	3,013,154

Class XV.—Surgical and Scientific Appliances

..	37	95	31	187	2	16	45,789	1,179	32,852	108,657
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Class XVI.—Timepieces, Jewellery, and Plated-ware

..	111	581	113	846	3	107	227,504	7,554	248,748	600,070
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Class XVII.—Heat, Light, and Energy.

Electric apparatus	84	578	84	747	..	57	167,547	5,674	211,969	494,011
Electric light	..	..	84	205,777	5	1,926	..	80	549,849	684,785	..	2,382,582
Gas, coke	..	..	45	2,009	3	2,342	..	119	668,006	10,622	779,709	2,087,358
Other	..	..	9	3,638	3	482	..	463	160,148	20,498	495,670	914,104
Total	..	..	222	212,002	95	5,497	..	719	1,545,550	721,579	1,487,348	5,878,055

Class XVIII.—Leatherware (except Saddlery and Harness)

..	59	513	59	516	1	364	154,966	4,042	326,785	569,910
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Production.

FACTORIES—POWER, WORKERS, WAGES, ETC., AND PRODUCTION, 1924-25—*continued.*

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Nature of Industry.	Number of Manufactories.	Actual Horse-power of Engines used.	Average Number of Persons Employed.				Value of—			
			Males.		Females.		Wages paid.	Fuel and Light used.	Materials used.	Articles Produced or Work Done.
			Working Proprietors.	Employees.	Working Proprietors.	Employees.				
<i>Class XIX.—Wares, not elsewhere included.</i>							£	£	£	£
Umbrella	7	12	5	58	..	151	26,894	317	84,102	134,294
Rubber goods	38	6,834	37	1,868	..	536	499,552	84,536	1,123,441	1,989,793
Brush, broom	15	156	15	214	1	67	52,566	1,437	81,581	174,997
Basket, wickerware	27	39	31	201	..	1	35,861	295	34,366	77,453
Total	87	7,041	88	2,341	1	755	614,873	86,585	1,323,490	2,376,531
Grand Total	7,425	374,064	6,592	99,392	663	47,511	29,057,052	2,964,635	65,205,233	118,177,398

Victorian Year-Book, 1924-25.

Increase in
value of out-
put of certain
industries,
1919-20 and
1924-25.

Most of the more important manufacturing industries in the State have shown a substantial increase in the value of output in the last five years. The output for the years 1919-20 and 1924-25 of a number of leading industries is shown in the following table, the industries being arranged in order of increase in value:—

OUTPUT OF INDUSTRIES, 1919-20 AND 1924-25.

Industry.	Value of Output.		Increase in Five Years.	
	1919-20.	1924-25.	Value.	Per cent.
	£	£	£	
Sugar, confectionery, &c. ..	4,200,738	6,647,402	2,446,664	58·2
Engineering, iron foundries, &c. ..	4,220,094	6,051,309	1,831,215	43·4
Sawmills, moulding, &c. ..	3,631,453	5,462,460	1,831,007	50·4
Butter, cheese, &c. ..	6,755,140	8,394,238	1,639,098	24·3
Railway workshop ..	1,784,163	3,254,715	1,470,552	82·4
Woollen mills ..	1,976,428	3,433,231	1,456,803	73·7
Electric light and power ..	953,039	2,382,582	1,429,543	150·0
Bicycle, motor, &c. ..	1,618,178	2,777,638	1,159,460	71·7
Hosiery ..	1,149,272	2,275,145	1,125,873	98·0
Agricultural implements ..	757,062	1,822,006	1,064,944	140·7
Printing ..	3,438,247	4,433,726	995,479	29·0
Cement and cement goods ..	238,342	942,034	703,692	295·2
Brick, pottery, &c. ..	674,774	1,337,595	662,821	98·2
Breweries ..	1,830,548	2,479,619	649,071	35·5
Gasworks ..	1,447,702	2,087,358	639,656	44·2
Cabinet, including billiard table ..	1,088,862	1,707,373	618,511	56·8
Fertilizers ..	1,007,189	1,442,984	435,795	43·3
Rubber goods ..	1,632,488	1,989,793	357,305	21·9
Bedding, upholstery, &c. ..	420,930	768,978	348,048	82·7
Electric apparatus ..	175,396	494,011	318,615	181·7
Chemicals, drugs, &c. ..	664,111	969,851	305,740	46·0
Clothing, tailoring, &c. ..	3,662,152	3,965,405	303,253	8·3
Modelling in plaster, cement, &c. ..	54,470	334,114	279,644	513·4
Match ..	234,335	504,091	269,756	115·1
Underclothing ..	2,374,591	2,636,628	262,037	11·0
Oil, grease, glue, &c. ..	291,402	547,777	256,375	88·0
Brass, copper ..	431,078	639,236	208,158	48·3
Paper ..	311,164	506,471	195,307	62·8
Wireworking ..	185,900	378,302	192,402	103·5
Fancy box, paper bag ..	408,044	600,444	192,400	47·2
Oatmeal, starch, &c. ..	1,002,165	1,192,273	190,108	19·0
Bacon curing ..	1,384,351	1,571,357	187,006	13·5
Dressmaking and millinery ..	2,863,889	3,047,653	183,764	6·4
Fur ..	192,049	361,257	169,208	88·1
Musical Instruments ..	111,987	280,812	168,825	150·8
Glass, including bottles ..	383,337	530,588	147,251	38·4
Marble and stone dressing ..	127,290	266,199	138,909	109·1

INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES.

The salient features in connexion with the chief industries are set forth in the succeeding pages.

The development of the tanning and fellmongering industry during the past ten years is shown by the particulars contained in the next two tables :—

TANNERIES, ETC., 1915 to 1924-25.

Year.	Number of Establishments.	Horse-power of Engines.	Value of Machinery and Plant in Use.	Number of Employees.	Number of Working Proprietors	Amount of Wages Paid.
			£			£
1915	82	2,510	193,350	2,165	97	268,884
1916-17	74	3,187	214,896	2,362	82	300,796
1917-18	76	3,476	271,120	2,485	69	347,753
1918-19	81	4,035	370,765	2,984	74	455,548
1919-20	86	4,631	400,110	3,299	85	631,920
1920-21	80	4,707	436,395	2,764	87	575,132
1921-22	78	5,341	504,355	2,902	93	625,443
1922-23	79	5,530	518,815	2,947	105	658,026
1923-24	80	5,850	557,930	2,821	108	646,015
1924-25	76	5,920	567,315	2,716	99	*661,635

* Including £43,386 drawn by working proprietors.

The quantity of bark used in connexion with tanning operations in 1924-25 was 12,085 tons. The output of tanneries for each of the last ten years was as follows :—

OUTPUT OF TANNERIES, ETC., 1915 to 1924-25.

Year.	Number Tanned—			Sheep Skins Stripped.	Wool Washed (weight after washing).	Value of Articles produced or Work done.
	Hides.	Calf Skins.	Sheep and other Skins.			
				number	lbs.	£
1915	765,088	166,197	1,150,449	1,463,775	12,224,184	3,201,455
1916-17	722,649	230,380	1,027,847	1,538,178	13,843,439	3,962,202
1917-18	601,950	217,605	1,418,595	1,641,000	24,560,590	5,061,236
1918-19	670,956	234,548	1,742,388	2,354,487	34,483,316	6,918,270
1919-20	738,907	251,973	2,780,017	5,030,438	38,191,912	8,896,091
1920-21	694,322	308,542	1,406,472	2,604,413	14,619,948	4,200,077
1921-22	792,974	512,515	2,042,817	2,214,080	17,453,847	3,953,049
1922-23	789,221	663,813	2,403,940	2,407,830	19,939,785	4,577,664
1923-24	788,942	526,818	2,387,235	971,559	12,885,685	4,675,911
1924-25	783,115	557,354	1,849,575	1,225,616	9,741,373	4,694,042

The value of the leather, &c., imported into Victoria from oversea countries during the year ended 30th June, 1925, was £156,389.

Particulars in regard to the soap and candle works in the State for the past ten years are given below :—

SOAP AND CANDLE WORKS, 1915 to 1924-25.

Year.	Number of Establishments.	Value of Machinery and Plant in Use.	Number of Employees.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Products.		Value of Output.
					Soap.*	Candles.	
		£		£	cwt.	cwt.	£
1915 ..	17	121,946	627	71,282	267,426	41,031	721,845
1916-17	18	128,100	670	84,036	214,526	38,746	802,179
1917-18	17	130,795	756	91,604	228,310	37,290	951,114
1918-19	15	140,600	669	92,663	206,429	39,680	957,295
1919-20	16	143,310	725	103,333	243,156	40,908	1,321,112
1920-21	16	164,110	696	115,749	225,748	32,662	1,134,820
1921-22	17	174,460	726	139,519	267,858	31,613	1,096,955
1922-23	19	196,355	756	142,685	296,888	39,519	1,152,270
1923-24	17	210,270	730	147,124	289,364	34,424	937,148
1924-25	17	201,400	701	143,779†	295,672	29,415	1,176,919

* Not including soap made in small soap works not classified as factories, viz., 1,664 cwt. in 1915, 927 cwt. in 1916-17, 1,134 cwt. in 1917-18, 1,054 cwt. in 1918-19, 907 cwt. in 1919-20, 996 cwt. in 1920-21, 859 cwt. in 1921-22, 1,316 cwt. in 1922-23, 1,258 cwt. in 1923-24, and 736 cwt. in 1924-25.

† Including £1,941 drawn by working proprietors.

The quantity of tallow used in 1924-25 in the manufacture of soap and candles was 182,074 cwt. in factories, and 303 cwt. in minor works.

The imports from overseas countries in 1924-25 included 358,170 lbs. of soap valued at £24,413, and 25,790 lbs. of candles valued at £1,955.

Particulars relating to brickyards and potteries for the ten years 1915 to 1924-25 are shown in the following statement. The value of the land, plant, buildings, &c., used in connexion with such works in 1924-25 was £1,062,870 :—

BRICKS, POTTERY, PIPES, AND TILES, 1915 TO 1924-25.

Year.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Employees.	Amount of Wages Paid	Number of Bricks Made.*	Value of—	
					Pipes and Tiles.	Pottery.
			£		£	£
1915 ..	89	1,839	230,969	142,601,000	134,623	52,732
1916-17 ..	79	1,636	200,781	108,444,000	147,840	57,266
1917-18 ..	78	1,842	231,090	107,139,000	171,836	73,398
1918-19 ..	84	2,296	314,452	133,176,000	246,763	121,286
1919-20 ..	93	2,504	336,295	119,142,000	255,562	97,844
1920-21 ..	92	2,729	481,352	203,425,000	362,495	177,410
1921-22 ..	93	2,583	495,288	169,715,000	355,784	185,293
1922-23 ..	92	3,136	631,454	227,183,000	439,159	203,828
1923-24 ..	104	3,467	735,719	247,598,000	541,796	241,821
1924-25 ..	102	2,995	655,034†	201,440,000	427,522	296,551

* In addition, there are bricks made in small brickyards not tabulated as factories.

† Including £16,069 drawn by working proprietors.

The estimated value of bricks made in 1924-25 was £613,552, being a decrease of £171,193 on the value of those made in the preceding year.

Detailed information in regard to the forest saw-mills of the State for the ten years 1915 to 1924-25 is given in the table which follows :—

FOREST SAW-MILLS, 1915 TO 1924-25.

Year.	Number of Mills.	Value of Machinery and Plant in Use.	Number of Employees.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Victorian Timber Sawn.	
					Quantity.	Value.
		£		£	super ft.	£
1915 ..	138	233,343	1,564	169,027	62,589,000	234,710
1916-17 ..	151	235,140	1,678	206,709	70,038,000	297,663
1917-18 ..	162	260,280	1,935	248,940	78,984,000	355,430
1918-19 ..	187	315,670	2,278	319,547	91,540,000	503,470
1919-20 ..	203	366,355	2,627	405,335	99,142,000	693,995
1920-21 ..	246	473,275	3,181	563,627	113,215,000	905,720
1921-22 ..	239	517,725	3,014	627,432	112,008,000	896,070
1922-23 ..	227	516,800	2,910	616,680	118,366,000	946,930
1923-24 ..	241	624,590	3,272	686,419	134,639,000	942,476
1924-25 ..	234	559,450	3,013	667,684*	114,705,000	745,582

* Including £51,604 drawn by working proprietors.

In addition to the forest saw-mills there were 471 other factories working in wood. Particulars relating to these for the year 1924-25 are given on page 573.

Firewood, &c. It is estimated that the approximate value of the production of firewood for consumption in the year 1924-25 was £1,053,870. In addition, there were supplies of railway sleepers, piles, posts and rails, shingles, and timber for mines obtained from the forests, but it has been found impossible to procure reliable information as to their value.

Engineering, Iron Foundry, &c. During the past decade there has been a very marked expansion in engineering works and iron foundries. Since 1915 the number of factories has increased by 46 per cent., the number of persons employed therein by 23 per cent., the amount of wages paid by 126 per cent., the value of machinery and plant by 102 per cent., the value of materials used by 77 per cent., and the value of the output by 100 per cent. The chief particulars of the industry for the years 1915 to 1924-25 are given in the next table :—

ENGINEERING, IRON FOUNDRY, ETC., 1915 to 1924-25.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Horse-power of Engines.	Value of Machinery and Plant.	Number of Employees.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Value of—		
						Materials Used.	Fuel and Light Used.	Output.
			£		£	£	£	£
1915 ..	364	7,999	784,447	8,138	1,056,075	1,349,270	106,483	3,029,713
1916-17	364	7,964	809,940	7,327	1,008,627	1,365,280	104,334	2,936,342
1917-18	388	8,045	844,350	6,931	1,011,930	1,414,060	110,900	3,096,090
1918-19	402	8,694	903,110	7,113	1,077,726	1,578,990	134,440	3,359,580
1919-20	441	10,795	1,023,395	8,564	1,395,379	1,917,877	128,435	4,220,094
1920-21	510	11,567	1,207,630	10,265	1,984,834	2,882,847	206,806	6,206,289
1921-22	517	11,872	1,325,500	9,632	2,067,009	2,511,800	196,239	5,897,158
1922-23	531	12,934	1,389,075	9,707	2,055,596	2,482,822	179,372	5,809,039
1923-24	516	12,917	1,445,840	10,305	2,288,499	2,501,025	183,953	6,087,049
1924-25	530	12,335	1,584,565	9,991	2,389,329*	2,393,110	164,768	6,051,309

* Including £143,488 drawn by working proprietors.

The above figures are exclusive of railway workshops, which in 1924-25 numbered 18, and gave employment to 5,888 hands who were paid £1,289,834; the value of the materials dealt with by such workshops in that year was £1,557,517, and the value of the output was £3,254,715, of which 66 per cent. was from the Newport Workshops.

**Agricultural
Implement
works.**

The subjoined statement contains the leading particulars relating to agricultural implement works for the last ten years :—

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKS, 1915 to 1924-25.

Year.	No. of Factories.	No. of Employees.	Wages Paid.	Value of—		
				Fuel, &c., Used.	Materials Used.	Output.
			£	£	£	£
1915 ..	64	1,678	206,764	15,337	213,257	526,756
1916-17 ..	63	1,832	250,450	18,666	359,342	743,196
1917-18 ..	62	1,904	261,045	20,911	435,665	830,876
1918-19 ..	60	1,628	249,360	18,100	337,730	702,870
1919-20 ..	61	1,701	272,262	20,001	349,555	757,062
1920-21 ..	60	2,641	512,363	42,193	756,204	1,750,704
1921-22 ..	58	2,851	643,874	43,794	806,066	1,567,843
1922-23 ..	61	2,589	555,394	36,935	626,561	1,511,724
1923-24 ..	61	3,144	688,229	44,171	713,637	1,690,645
1924-25 ..	61	3,100	730,219*	46,501	785,247	1,822,006

* Including £10,226 drawn by working proprietors.

The wages averaged £123 4s. 5d. for each employee in 1915, and £232 5s. 1d. in 1924-25. The stripper-harvester, which is a Victorian invention, is one of the principal implements manufactured.

In the following table particulars of bacon and ham curing establishments are given for the ten years 1915 to 1924-25. The value of the machinery, plant, land and buildings in connexion with these establishments was £152,879 in 1915 and £270,060 in 1924-25.

BACON CURING, 1915 to 1924-25.

Year.	Number of Establish- ments.	Number of Employees.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Pigs Slaughtered for Curing.	Weight of Bacon and Hams Cured.	Value of Output.
			£	number	lbs.	£
1915 ..	25	362	49,672	129,259	11,451,031	767,778
1916-17 ..	23	405	58,191	167,003	15,376,600	972,477
1917-18 ..	21	433	65,870	197,880	17,908,100	1,084,440
1918-19 ..	21	482	76,308	201,770	18,343,400	1,107,910
1919-20 ..	21	529	99,736	182,320	16,675,090	1,384,351
1920-21 ..	22	421	90,394	139,881	13,369,107	1,335,186
1921-22 ..	22	445	103,783	163,917	15,583,960	1,366,832
1922-23 ..	24	462	104,841	186,524	17,293,395	1,289,267
1923-24 ..	24	502	118,751	217,847	20,458,243	1,602,615
1924-25 ..	21	504	129,474*	218,158	20,431,914	1,571,357

* Including £6,174 drawn by working proprietors.

This table does not include particulars relating to pigs slaughtered for curing, or to bacon and hams cured in small curing works; the pigs so slaughtered numbered 439 in 1915, 379 in 1916-17, 140 in 1917-18, 130 in 1918-19, 145 in 1919-20, 150 in 1920-21, 164 in 1921-22, 116 in 1922-23, 95 in 1923-24, and none in 1924-25; the quantity (in pounds) of bacon and hams cured in these works was 45,030 in 1915, 31,300 in 1916-17, 12,970 in 1917-18, 9,790 in 1918-19, 11,500 in 1919-20, 14,000 in 1920-21, 12,010 in 1921-22, 9,690 in 1922-23, and 9,025 in 1923-24.

In addition, the following quantities of bacon and hams were returned as having been cured on farms:—2,208,943 lbs. in 1915, 2,738,428 lbs. in 1916-17, 3,403,776 lbs. in 1917-18, 3,859,205 lbs. in 1918-19, 2,698,919 lbs. in 1919-20, 1,755,993 lbs. in 1920-21, 1,812,838 lbs. in 1921-22, 1,975,729 lbs. in 1922-23, 2,082,731 lbs. in 1923-24, and 1,561,955 lbs. in 1924-25. The total quantity of bacon and hams cured in 1924-25 was thus 21,993,869 lbs.—a decrease of 547,105 lbs. as compared with 1923-24.

The number of butter, cheese, and kindred factories in 1924-25 was 186. Of these 149 were making butter, 31 cheese, 3 concentrated milk, 3 condensed milk, 12 powdered milk, 12 casein, 1 milk sugar, and 1 milk jelly. There were also 26 creameries attached to the factories. The number of factories and the value of machinery, plant, land and buildings, the number of employees and the amount of their wages, and the total value of the output for the ten years 1915 to 1924-25 were as follows:—

BUTTER AND CHEESE FACTORIES, 1915 TO 1924-25.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Value of Machinery, Plant, Land, and Buildings.	Number of Employees.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Value of Output.
		£		£	£
1915	190	644,960	1,145	139,543	2,715,784
1916-17	182	647,128	1,398	185,024	4,815,833
1917-18	181	683,140	1,642	226,050	5,086,238
1918-19	180	786,275	1,885	273,335	6,056,342
1919-20	181	1,025,325	2,026	338,507	6,365,927
1920-21	184	1,238,745	2,093	414,420	9,194,654
1921-22	188	1,395,425	2,293	492,446	7,115,642
1922-23	182	1,509,545	2,188	497,816	7,899,377
1923-24	184	1,685,530	2,186	511,001	7,974,676
1924-25	186	1,812,525	2,398	565,422*	8,212,788

* Including £5,469 drawn by working proprietors.

Further particulars relating to butter and cheese factories will be found under the heading of Dairying on page 546.

Meat freezing and preserving works numbered thirteen in 1924-25, and gave employment to 1,052 hands and 2 working proprietors, the wages amounting to £196,869.

The approximate value of machinery, plant, land and buildings in that year was £1,301,420. The output for each of the last ten years is given in the following table:—

MEAT FREEZING AND PRESERVING, 1915 TO 1924-25.

Year.	Frozen.			
	Cattle.	Sheep.	Rabbits.	Poultry.
	qrs.	number.	number.	number.
1915 .. ..	..	47,546	3,584,388	8,652
1916-17	28,492	418,418	2,846,904	4,900
1917-18	3,832	196,267	7,394,140	4,620
1918-19	8,640	668,970	2,335,990	2,700
1919-20	177,230	4,001,500	5,385,854	2,736
1920-21	49,372	786,086	2,189,378	9,468
1921-22	55,355	1,186,704	903,400	8,856
1922-23	17,006	2,657,515	282,624	5,284
1923-24	16,044	691,630	160,998	6,776
1924-25	25,690	1,035,799	108,338	6,386

Year.	Preserved.			
	Beef.	Mutton.	Rabbits.	Other Meats, &c.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
1915	38,835	2,092	422	3,448
1916-17	15,591	4,484	5,245	2,693
1917-18	17,810	28,530	9,530	15,110
1918-19	75,790	118,520	9,625	9,850
1919-20	104,725	60,850	7,580	1,860
1920-21	3,641	443	1	764
1921-22	8,808	4,419	29	30
1922-23	9,500	2,092	16	3,925
1923-24	8,098	564	32	1,411
1924-25	13,895	954	4	1,467

NOTE.—In addition to the above, there were treated at freezing works 3,072 hares in 1915; 1,120 calves, 156 pigs, and 6,872 hares in 1916-17; 166 calves, 971 pigs, and 9,180 hares in 1917-18; 1,360 calves, 615 pigs, and 16,220 hares in 1918-19; 130 calves, 1,000 pigs, and 65,530 hares in 1919-20; 2,569 calves and 5,465 pigs in 1920-21; 2,855 calves and 7,335 pigs in 1921-22; 98 calves and 121 pigs in 1923-24; and 969 calves and 272 pigs in 1924-25.

Imports and
exports of
meats.

The following statement shows the imports from and exports to oversea countries of frozen and preserved meats, other than bacon and ham, during the year ended 30th June, 1925 :—

MEATS IMPORTED AND EXPORTED OVERSEA, 1924-25.

Meats.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Frozen—				
Mutton	9,320 lbs.	248	4,483,111 lbs.	95,022
Lamb			28,965,315 „	955,276
Reef	40 lbs.	1	4,548,388 „	61,829
Pork	112,957 lbs.	4,833	555 „	22
Rabbits and Hares ..	..	..	54,174 prs.	5,196
Poultry	12 lbs.	1	3,193 „	1,959
Game	3,720 lbs.	298	2,946 lbs.	55
Potted and Concentrated ..	..	45,080	..	1,710
Preserved in tins .. ..	..	11,003	1,162,341 lbs.	33,011
Sausage Casings.. ..	..	72,551	2,533 cwt.	49,952
Not elsewhere included ..	..	251	..	4,883
Total value .. ..	..	134,266	..	1,208,915

The value of the machinery, plant, land and buildings used in connexion with flour mills was estimated at £461,801 in 1915, and at £826,595 in 1924-25. Particulars of the industry for the ten years 1915 to 1924-25 are as follows :—

FLOUR MILLS, 1915 to 1924-25.

Year.	Number of Mills.	Number of Employees.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Wheat Ground into Flour.	Flour Made.	Value of Total Output.
			£	bushels.	tons.	£
1915 ..	51	608	70,982	6,574,753	134,401	2,739,730
1916-17 ..	54	857	126,280	12,483,990	263,095	3,458,633
1917-18 ..	55	988	155,330	15,034,990	311,450	3,989,510
1918-19 ..	53	1,029	169,233	16,621,290	347,840	4,656,403
1919-20 ..	51	1,028	189,224	16,920,890	353,683	6,082,741
1920-21 ..	51	911	191,688	12,387,960	260,032	5,745,507
1921-22 ..	45	963	228,195	14,697,290	308,532	5,759,281
1922-23 ..	47	1,058	244,436	16,601,530	352,002	5,415,067
1923-24 ..	47	1,082	266,540	18,552,540	382,204	5,495,110
1924-25 ..	46	1,031	267,034*	17,165,253	359,597	6,218,248

* Including £9,451 drawn by working proprietors.

In addition to the flour made, the wheat ground in 1924-25 produced 7,746,014 bushels of bran and 7,293,760 bushels of pollard. Other grain operated on amounted to 43,618 bushels in 1915, 44,150 bushels in 1916-17, 31,960 bushels in 1917-18, 40,113 bushels in 1918-19, 39,235 bushels in 1919-20, 40,094 bushels in 1920-21, 65,788 bushels in 1921-22, 44,363 bushels in 1922-23, 34,283 bushels in 1923-24, and 59,825 bushels in 1924-25.

**Exports of
bread stuffs.**

During the year 1924-25, 1,902,596 lbs. of biscuits valued at £61,807, and 177,778 tons of flour valued at £2,408,542, were exported from Victoria to countries beyond Australia.

**Jam, pickle,
and sauce
works.**

In 1924-25 there were 52 establishments in which the manufacture of jams, pickles, and sauces was carried on, and the number of persons employed therein was 2,501, of whom 31 were working proprietors. The wages paid amounted to £419,295, and the value of machinery, plant, land and buildings was £555,905. The quantities of fruit and sugar used and the output for each of the last ten years were as shown below :—

JAM, PICKLE, AND SAUCE WORKS, 1915 to 1924-25.

Year.	Fruit Used.	Sugar Used.	Jams and Jellies Made.	Fruit Preserved.	Fruit Pulped.	Sauce Made.	Pickles Made.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	pints.	pints.
1915 ..	300,861	193,243	305,445	52,939	40,993	5,827,176	1,285,476
1916-17..	372,424	257,481	347,152	60,419	132,182	6,433,032	1,803,408
1917-18..	497,650	286,860	398,500	115,589	94,810	7,064,520	1,972,320
1918-19..	496,690	314,645	495,575	133,230	91,550	4,913,050	2,137,730
1919-20..	628,721	262,585	323,452	181,562	225,522	6,546,610	1,874,240
1920-21..	465,349	171,706	231,297	61,542	178,786	6,601,330	1,239,250
1921-22..	384,214	148,886	157,712	239,656	100,317	6,600,530	1,056,430
1922-23..	450,199	177,334	206,966	221,157	114,615	8,439,440	2,106,950
1923-24..	552,262	191,216	197,850	239,077	208,688	10,696,190	2,361,250
1924-25..	537,246	190,675	220,174	282,360	151,416	7,893,760	2,057,480

Some of these establishments also candied fruit peel, the quantities being 4,628 cwt. in 1915, 3,360 cwt. in 1916-17, 9,330 cwt. in 1917-18, 8,449 cwt. in 1918-19, 10,466 cwt. in 1919-20, 13,306 cwt. in 1920-21, 10,743 cwt. in 1921-22, 6,831 cwt. in 1922-23, 3,820 cwt. in 1923-24, and 7,263 cwt. in 1924-25. The value of the output in 1924-25 of the whole of the establishments whose produce is shown in the above table was £2,090,690.

**Beet Sugar
Industry.** In 1896 Parliament made available £62,000 to assist in the establishment of the beet sugar industry at Maffra, in Gippsland. On receiving a guarantee that 1,500 acres of beet would be sown by local land-holders, a company erected a large building and plant, and operated for two seasons. Although a good quality of sugar was produced, various climatic, financial, and

other difficulties compelled the company to close down the works, and the Government, as chief creditor, took control.

In 1910 a definite campaign to revive the industry was commenced, and the mill was re-opened; since that time it has operated from year to year. Estates were purchased by the Government at Boisdale and Kilmany, and land was allotted to settlers, subject to the proviso that each would grow a certain quantity of beet. The compulsory system of securing acreage was not found satisfactory, and all crops are now grown voluntarily. Recently the financial results have been sufficiently favorable to more than compensate for all losses; the by-products have been found to be of great value to the dairying industry, and the sugar has become a most important item of Gippsland's food supply. The Government decided to remodel the plant, and a sum of £65,000 has been voted for the purpose. An American engineer has been appointed to proceed with the work, which is now well under way.

The State Rivers and Water Supply Commission have advanced their irrigation scheme on the Macalister River, which will provide water for part of the district this season and subsequently for the whole district. Under irrigation it is anticipated that the beet supply will at least double itself, and that the industry will expand on more favorable and economical lines than in the past.

The following particulars summarize the results of the industry for the last ten seasons:—

Season.				Area Harvested.	Sugar Beet Harvested.	Sugar Produced.
				acres.	tons.	tons.
1915-16	..	..	..	461	4,928	560
1916-17	..	..	..	1,320	15,159	1,948
1917-18	..	..	..	1,200	14,487	1,650
1918-19	..	..	..	1,009	12,289	1,263
1919-20	..	..	..	1,080	13,084	1,551
1920-21	..	..	..	1,180	7,147	833
1921-22	..	..	..	1,602	16,578	1,872
1922-23	..	..	..	2,045	20,444	2,784
1923-24	..	..	..	1,937	29,512	3,499
1924-25	..	..	..	1,897	24,468	3,017

The last season was a normal one. Growers were paid 40s. a ton for their beets, and a net profit of £23,142 was realized.

Breweries. Particulars regarding breweries for the ten years 1915 to 1924-25 are set forth in the next table. Machinery and plant were valued at £419,896 in 1915 and at £722,440 in 1924-25, whilst land and buildings were valued at £434,295 and £568,335 respectively in those years. The wages paid in 1924-25 amounted to £344,348.

BREWERIES, 1915 to 1924-25.

Year.	Number of Breweries.	Number of Employees.	Materials Used—			Beer Made.	Value of Output.
			Sugar.	Malt.	Hops.		
			cwt.	bushels.	lbs.	gallons.	£
1915 ..	22	893	111,363	600,333	661,299	20,340,000	1,061,196
1916-17	19	857	105,238	616,630	710,470	20,112,000	1,118,288
1917-18	18	866	109,640	650,500	748,840	21,021,000	1,334,344
1918-19	17	932	112,080	625,770	722,590	20,963,000	1,476,335
1919-20	17	1,008	110,020	720,515	769,765	22,610,000	1,830,548
1920-21	16	1,048	104,140	753,260	736,580	22,257,000	2,098,720
1921-22	15	1,047	107,160	688,090	717,950	22,388,000	2,200,882
1922-23	14	1,086	110,051	723,511	768,870	23,212,000	2,322,814
1923-24	14	1,180	112,840	743,131	796,769	23,907,000	2,412,387
1924-25	14	1,257	113,729	744,048	784,080	23,286,000	2,479,619

Distilleries. The number of distilleries working in 1924-25 was 10, and the persons employed numbered 117, of whom one was a working proprietor. The estimated value of the machinery, plant, land and buildings was £276,590. The quantities of materials used in manufacture and of spirits distilled in each of the last ten years were as follows:—

DISTILLERIES, 1915 to 1924-25.

Year.	Materials Used.				Spirits Distilled.
	Wine.	Malt.	Other Grain.	Molasses.	
	gallons.	bushels.	bushels.	lbs.	proof gal.
1915 ..	984,817	34,896	118	1,592,640	386,152
1916-17	1,452,048	176,472	170	1,093,120	658,357
1917-18	1,137,640	376,830	..	3,962,560	1,150,091
1918-19	1,206,530	385,690	397	5,604,480	1,185,629
1919-20	1,524,860	180,306	..	3,230,080	702,586
1920-21	1,041,890	125,414	1,422	2,682,960	572,671
1921-22	671,162	58,848	..	1,167,600	390,840
1922-23	1,100,568	77,717	..	85,120	473,152
1923-24	1,114,590	121,691	..	2,350,880	730,158
1924-25	1,117,370	92,124	..	2,727,650	561,153

Spirits made by vine-growers for fortifying wine are not included in the foregoing table. The following quantities were distilled in vineyards for that purpose during the last ten years:—9,955 gallons in 1915, 9,937 gallons in 1916-17, 5,134 gallons in 1917-18, 2,232 gallons in 1918-19, 5,141 gallons in 1919-20, 15,486 gallons in 1920-21, 23,020 gallons in 1921-22, 14,930 gallons in 1922-23, 13,792 gallons in 1923-24, and 19,245 gallons in 1924-25.

Tobacco factories. The number of tobacco, cigar, and cigarette factories licensed in 1924-25 was twenty-nine, of which sixteen were too small to be classified as ordinary factories and were consequently not included in the statistical tabulation on page 574. In the year mentioned the remaining thirteen gave employment to 1,818 persons who were paid £348,792 in wages, and used machinery, plant, land and buildings valued at £405,955. The subjoined table shows the quantity of tobacco leaf used by and the output of the full number of licensed establishments for the last ten years:—

TOBACCO FACTORIES, 1915 To 1924-25.

Year.	Unmanufactured Leaf Operated on.		Quantity Manufactured.			
	Australian.	Imported.	Tobacco.	Snuff.	Cigars.	Cigarettes.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	number.	number.
1915 ..	515,969	4,414,921	5,022,910	565	22,676,586	138,111,000
1916-17 ..	656,320	5,254,110	6,089,929	446	26,268,733	123,480,200
1917-18 ..	558,278	4,598,364	5,479,191	313	27,920,180	126,883,970
1918-19 ..	405,625	5,096,176	5,842,142	1,049	27,973,908	125,372,900
1919-20 ..	573,932	5,189,098	6,164,126	426	35,232,399	143,374,400
1920-21 ..	751,137	5,290,854	6,443,480	228	35,549,722	109,686,950
1921-22 ..	535,590	5,250,641	6,345,508	232	33,893,695	152,908,600
1922-23 ..	540,322	5,628,555	6,709,060	231	32,699,019	99,771,650
1923-24 ..	471,862	4,998,680	5,833,903	99	29,244,981	87,896,350
1924-25 ..	427,152	5,222,496	5,998,437	50	30,794,864	77,840,200

Woollen mills. There were twenty-eight woollen mills working in 1924-25, and the number of persons employed therein was 5,077, of whom twenty-two were working proprietors. The wages paid amounted to £727,092, and the approximate value of the machinery, plant, land and buildings was £3,246,745. The value of the raw materials used during the year was £2,173,423, and that of the goods manufactured in the same period, £3,433,231.

The quantities of wool and cotton used and of goods manufactured in each of the last ten years were as follows :—

WOOLLEN MILLS, 1915 to 1924-25.

Year.	Quantity of Scoured Wool Used.	Quantity of Cotton Used.	Goods Manufactured—				Value of Output.
			Tweed and Cloth.	Flannel.	Blankets.	Shawls and Rugs.	
	lbs.	lbs.	yards.	yards.	pairs.	number	£
1915	6,521,130	702,653	1,331,137	5,136,258	347,988	6,418	931,774
1916-17	5,114,320	599,288	1,238,363	5,250,093	259,080	3,661	1,006,635
1917-18	4,332,420	832,400	1,429,050	5,411,990	214,410	8,560	1,036,081
1918-19	4,614,585	513,800	1,429,200	5,047,490	191,130	19,430	1,126,119
1919-20	7,285,570	578,542	2,212,202	3,667,816	165,794	51,637	1,976,428
1920-21	7,702,055	553,282	2,509,198	4,035,298	224,745	47,179	2,397,610
1921-22	8,015,650	586,836	1,872,512	5,759,987	297,700	51,598	2,482,761
1922-23	9,640,760	621,490	1,714,460	6,622,350	314,803	71,073	3,264,025
1923-24	7,936,456	848,812	1,927,298	6,095,442	377,354	115,443	3,561,480
1924-25	8,782,203	544,364	1,898,647	3,594,427	319,026	130,094	3,433,231

During the period 1915 to 1924-25 the value of the output of woollen mills increased by 268 per cent. The articles manufactured showed an increase in quantity in the case of tweed, cloth, shawls and rugs, and a decrease in flannel and blankets in the ten-year period.

Boot factories. The development which has taken place in the boot industry in recent years is exhibited in the following tables :—

BOOT FACTORIES, 1915 to 1924-25.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Persons Employed.	Value of Machinery, Plant, Land, and Buildings.	Wages Paid.
			£	£
1915	174	6,847	483,683	625,886
1916-17	201	8,494	529,950	843,772
1917-18	231	8,565	577,125	858,874
1918-19	238	8,961	627,770	987,203
1919-20	264	10,357	716,305	1,252,004
1920-21	304	9,212	927,310	1,208,760
1921-22	334	11,714	1,130,425	1,760,589
1922-23	371	12,434	1,338,555	1,922,345
1923-24	400	12,434	1,529,615	1,941,075
1924-25	430	12,099	1,748,815	2,054,563*

* Including £168,445 drawn by working proprietors.

OUTPUT OF BOOT FACTORIES, 1915 to 1924-25.

Year.	Goods Manufactured—		Value of Materials Used.	Value of Output.
	Boots and Shoes.	Slippers.*		
	pairs.	pairs.	£	£
1915	5,257,415	191,044	1,502,285	2,436,673
1916-17	6,210,866	212,582	2,171,812	3,460,404
1917-18	6,049,510	205,614	2,093,803	3,442,302
1918-19	6,073,117	243,383	2,563,423	4,040,550
1919-20	6,774,267	552,652	3,909,570	5,996,639
1920-21	5,447,504	559,213	2,911,852	4,964,462
1921-22	7,571,231	903,992	3,109,863	6,043,172
1922-23	7,591,946	851,239	3,059,769	6,157,132
1923-24	7,063,385	1,107,257	2,879,194	5,888,699
1924-25	7,496,004	1,167,581	2,913,105	5,832,625

* Includes canvas shoes and house-boots.

The value of the output of establishments connected with the manufacture of dress, i.e., clothing, tailoring, dressmaking, millinery, underclothing, hats and caps, &c., but exclusive of boots and shoes, was £13,584,190 in 1924-25, as compared with £5,901,238 in 1915. During the period 1915 to 1924-25 the persons employed increased by 11 per cent., the wages paid by 147 per cent., the value of materials used by 124 per cent., and the value of the output by 130 per cent. Particulars of the industry for each of the last ten years are as follows :—

DRESS (EXCLUSIVE OF BOOT) FACTORIES, 1915 to 1924-25.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Number of Persons Employed.			Amount of Wages Paid.	Value of Materials Used.	Value of Output.
		Males.	Females.	Total.			
					£	£	£
1915 ..	1,198	3,833	24,126	27,959	1,554,921	3,295,009	5,901,238
1916-17	1,196	3,744	25,739	29,483	1,747,478	3,919,333	6,765,326
1917-18	1,209	3,730	24,630	28,360	1,788,136	4,512,648	7,674,705
1918-19	1,210	3,776	23,505	27,281	1,915,096	5,205,460	8,599,603
1919-20	1,252	4,123	25,490	29,613	2,490,549	6,628,276	11,407,324
1920-21	1,346	4,383	25,980	30,363	2,872,171	7,804,264	12,994,011
1921-22	1,424	4,674	27,370	32,044	3,328,326	7,689,101	13,429,230
1922-23	1,526	4,951	28,595	33,546	3,554,303	7,456,539	13,354,238
1923-24	1,501	4,751	26,772	31,523	3,574,059	7,181,020	13,118,477
1924-25	1,500	4,823	26,295	31,118	3,837,919*	7,388,950	13,584,190

* Including £271,400 drawn by working proprietors.

Electric light and power works. Particulars relating to the electric light and power works of the State are given in the next table:—

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER WORKS, 1915 to 1924-25.

Year.	Number of Stations.	Horse-power of Machinery.	Value of Machinery and Plant.	Persons Employed.	Wages Paid.	Electricity Supplied.	Value of Output.
			£		£	British units.	£
1915 ..	63	33,127	1,569,553	957	135,045	53,210,000	536,251
1916-17	74	42,144	1,787,477	1,144	178,430	71,622,000	673,769
1917-18	75	48,526	1,889,550	1,167	183,948	79,486,000	760,117
1918-19	77	48,777	2,135,310	1,149	190,280	83,778,000	835,190
1919-20	78	49,241	2,632,665	1,215	217,995	100,838,000	953,039
1920-21	79	54,189	2,660,945	1,242	283,309	115,105,000	1,131,331
1921-22	84	57,481	3,166,750	1,350	334,805	136,021,000	1,407,268
1922-23	88	72,106	4,042,910	1,451	377,048	157,728,000	1,614,139
1923-24	90	154,622	5,864,065	1,752	462,172	405,108,000	2,176,551
1924-25	84	205,777	7,900,455	2,011	549,849	413,556,000	2,382,582

The electricity supplied in 1924-25 represented an increase of 677 per cent. on that supplied in 1915.

The particulars relating to the power houses at Newport under the control of the Victorian Railways Commissioners and the State Electricity Commission are included in the figures for 1923-24 and 1924-25 which appear in the above table. This largely accounts for the seeming discrepancy between the quantity and value of the output for the years mentioned. The quantity of electricity generated in these power houses in 1924-25 was 298,505,000 units; the value of this has been estimated at bulk rates by the respective departments.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION ACTS 1918 AND 1920.

When it was first appointed in 1919, the operations of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria were carried on under the provisions of the *Electricity Commissioners' Act* 1918, which provided for the appointment by the Governor in Council of three Commissioners to administer the Act. By an amending Act of the 24th December, 1920, the name of the Act was changed to the *State Electricity Commission Act* 1918, and provision was made, *inter alia*, for the appointment of four Commissioners for a period of seven years, one of whom would devote the whole of his time to the Commission's works as permanent chairman. In addition to the Acts mentioned above, the Commission administers the *Electric Light and Power Act* 1915, the provisions of which give it control over all electrical undertakings in the State.

The duties of the Commission include the following:—

- (1) To inquire into and report to the Government as to the steps which should be taken to co-ordinate and concentrate all electrical undertakings in Victoria, and to secure the efficient inter-connexion of such undertakings by the adoption of the necessary standards of plant, pressure, &c.
- (2) To encourage and promote the use of electricity for industrial and manufacturing purposes, and to report to the Govern-

ment on the prospects of establishing new industries in Victoria requiring large quantities of electrical energy.

- (3) To carry out investigations of coal deposits or of water power in connexion with the generation of electricity.

The Commission is vested with the following powers in relation to electrical undertakings :—

- (1) To erect and operate electrical undertakings.
- (2) To supply electricity in bulk to any corporation.
- (3) To supply electricity to any person outside any area in which there is an existing undertaking.
- (4) To carry on any business associated with an electric undertaking.
- (5) To make regulations as to precautions to be adopted in the use of electricity, and to arrange for the licensing of electric wiremen.

Authority is also given to the Commission to establish and operate State Coal Mines.

The Commission has complete control over all officers and employees required for the carrying out of the provisions of the Act.

In accordance with the instructions contained in the Act, the Commission has constructed a coal winning plant and an electric generating station in the neighbourhood of Morwell, for the purpose of utilizing the practically unlimited supplies of brown coal in that area. The scheme provides for the winning of coal on the open cut system by means of mechanical appliances, for the erection of a power station close to the site of the open cut, having an initial capacity of 50,000 kilowatts, with provision for triplication, and for the erection at Yarraville of a receiving station with the necessary switch and transforming gear. Both stations are now complete and in operation, as is also the initial installation of briquetting plant at Yallourn, which produces, approximately, 100,000 tons of brown coal briquettes annually.

The Commission has also installed at Newport a station with an initial capacity of 14,000 kilowatts. This station, which was built mainly to meet the urgent need for electricity pending the completion of the Yallourn plant, is now regarded as a peak load station.

Supply of electricity from the Commission's temporary station at Yallourn is already being given to the following towns in the Gippsland district (in addition to the Commission's township of Yallourn) :—Morwell, Traralgon, Moe, Trafalgar, Yarragon, Maffra, Sale, Tyers, Heyfield, Mirboo North, Drouin, Korumburra, Leongatha, Cowwarr, and Boolarra. Ultimately, supply will be given to other towns throughout Gippsland and on the route of the main transmission line.

A transmission line has been built from Geelong, stretching through the south-western district of Victoria to the town of Warrnambool (a distance of 117 miles), giving supply to the latter town and to the following towns *en route* :—Colac, Camperdown, Terang, Mortlake, Warriorn, Beac, Cobden, Ncorat, Alvie, Allansford, Winchelsea and Birregurra. This transmission line (operating at 44,000 volts) is believed to be among the longest in the British Empire.

Supply has also been given to the towns of Point Lonsdale, Queenscliff, Portarlington, Drysdale, Ocean Grove, and Barwon Heads, by another transmission line from Geelong.

The energy is generated at the Melbourne Electric Supply Company's Power House at Geelong under an agreement between that body and the Electricity Commission until such time as energy is available from the Commission's main power station at Yallourn.

The Commission is supplying energy in bulk to the Melbourne City Council, the Melbourne Electric Supply Company, the municipalities of Brunswick, Coburg, Williamstown, and Footscray, and the shires of Braybrook and Lilydale, and has built a subsidiary line, operating at 22,000 volts, from Brunswick sub-station, which encircles the eastern half of the outer metropolitan area, passing through and giving service to Ringwood, Dandenong, Frankston, and the Mornington Peninsula. It has also taken over the supply and retail distribution of energy to Dandenong, Werribee, and Essendon—Flemington. At the 30th June, 1925, the Commission was supplying, either in retail or in bulk, 62 towns or centres throughout Victoria.

The Commission is empowered to develop hydro-electric resources, and with this object to maintain survey parties constantly in the field for the purpose of obtaining data relative to stream flow, volume, &c.

Plans are complete for the building of hydro-power stations at Royston, Rubicon, Rubicon Lower, Snobbs Creek and Sugarloaf—all to feed into a common sub-station about eight miles from Sugarloaf. The total capacity of hydraulic turbines to be installed in these stations is 25,800 brake horse-power. The construction of the transmission line from Sugarloaf to Thomastown, and from Sugarloaf to Albury and Corowa (New South Wales), via Benalla and Wangaratta, is nearly complete, and, pending completion of the hydro-electric plant, supply will be given to the north-eastern portions of the State over the transmission line from Yallourn, via Yarraville and Thomastown terminal stations.

The approximate value of the machinery, plant, land and buildings connected with gasworks in Victoria was £1,819,657 in 1915, and £2,436,215 in 1924-25. The gas made in the latter year was 37 per cent. in excess of that made in 1915. Particulars in regard to these works are given below.

GASWORKS, 1915 to 1924-25.

Year.	Number of Works.*	Persons Employed.	Wages Paid.	Coal Used.	Gas Made.	Coke Produced.	Value of Output.
			£	tons.	cubic feet.	tons.	£
1915 ..	47	2,175	347,434	307,902	4,107,578,000	204,957	1,035,941
1916-17 ..	47	2,093	365,777	317,450	4,449,230,000	200,673	1,181,096
1917-18 ..	47	2,089	375,181	318,560	4,505,847,000	200,660	1,263,030
1918-19 ..	46	2,270	420,597	353,584	4,904,351,000	220,287	1,373,603
1919-20 ..	45	2,267	472,855	331,149	4,592,305,000	206,245	1,395,320
1920-21 ..	45	2,213	576,515	339,250	4,499,088,000	216,771	1,608,999
1921-22 ..	45	2,309	609,600	383,092	5,151,380,000	239,755	1,953,936
1922-23 ..	45	2,444	639,954	402,537	5,443,993,000	260,526	1,941,808
1923-24 ..	45	2,561	699,173	410,517	5,407,962,000	259,080	2,098,571
1924-25 ..	45	2,464	668,006	406,868	5,608,313,000	226,436	2,087,358

* Including one establishment manufacturing coke only, which has not worked since 1919-20.

Oil was used as well as coal in the manufacture of gas, the number of gallons consumed each year being 328,230 in 1915, 345,272 in 1916-17, 396,717 in 1917-18, 355,933 in 1918-19, 343,764 in 1919-20, 360,876 in 1920-21, 300,188 in 1921-22, 248,481 in 1922-23, 223,986 in 1923-24, and 175,127 in 1924-25.

The facilities afforded in the metropolitan area have had the effect of bringing within that area the more important of the manufactories. The distribution of factories by classes between the metropolis and the remainder of the State, for 1915 and each of the last three years, is exhibited in the following statement:—

NUMBER AND LOCATION OF FACTORIES.

Class of Industry.	Number of Factories.							
	Metropolis.				Remainder of State.			
	1915.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1915.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Treating raw material, product of pastoral pursuits, &c. . .	77	87	84	83	245	208	204	191
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c. . .	14	21	19	18	11	9	9	9
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c. . .	96	140	149	151	93	91	103	110
Working in wood . .	194	289	336	356	216	324	355	349
Metal works, machinery, &c. . .	507	705	696	707	224	213	212	216
Connected with food and drink, &c. . .	201	289	277	267	430	442	443	454
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c. . .	1,100	1,589	1,594	1,627	315	370	373	373
Books, paper, printing, &c. . .	283	356	367	380	160	161	170	176
Musical instruments, &c. . .	5	17	19	19	..	1	1	1
Arms and explosives	8	9	9	8	4	1	1	1
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c. . .	249	371	413	427	280	379	417	419
Ship and boat building and repairing . .	11	10	11	10	1	1	1	1
Furniture, upholstery and bedding . .	239	367	370	387	26	30	36	38
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products . .	53	91	90	93	26	31	31	38
Surgical and other scientific appliances	22	36	34	35	1	2	2	2
Jewellery, time-pieces and plated-ware . .	89	105	104	106	5	6	7	5
Heat, light, and power . .	46	88	95	102	96	121	124	120
Leatherware, n.e.i. . .	33	61	59	56	..	3	3	3
Minor wares, n.e.i. . .	51	68	62	75	2	4	9	12
Total . .	3,278	4,699	4,788	4,907	2,135	2,397	2,501	2,518

Since 1915 the number of factories in the State has increased by 2,012, the greatest numerical increase in the classes being that

of the clothing and textile factories, of which there were 585 more in 1924-25 than in 1915.

The employment afforded in each class of industry is set forth in the next statement:—

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN FABRICATORIES.

Class of Industry.	1915.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Treating raw materials, product of pastoral pursuits, &c. ..	3,345	4,329	4,488	4,276	4,077
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c. ..	740	880	915	920	950
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c. ..	3,822	5,391	6,059	6,661	6,181
Working in wood ..	6,345	9,537	9,939	10,825	10,198
Metal works, machinery, &c. ..	19,217	22,868	23,406	24,978	24,464
Connected with food and drink, &c. ..	13,778	17,974	19,037	19,199	19,344
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c. ..	38,041	48,844	51,898	50,248	49,633
Books, paper, printing, &c. ..	8,881	10,465	11,307	12,098	11,703
Musical instruments, &c. ..	145	390	444	498	467
Arms and explosives ..	1,324	756	406	423	428
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c. ..	4,589	6,173	6,407	7,028	6,984
Ship and boat building and repairing ..	1,085	684	618	392	432
Furniture, bedding, and upholstery ..	2,689	3,709	4,392	4,629	4,782
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products ..	1,860	2,465	2,511	2,699	2,774
Surgical and other scientific appliances ..	115	203	203	195	236
Jewellery, time-pieces, and plated-ware ..	825	1,183	1,151	1,110	1,069
Heat, light, and power ..	4,012	5,090	5,364	5,879	6,311
Leatherware, n.e.i. ..	604	1,065	1,123	1,071	940
Minor wares, n.e.i. ..	2,417	2,870	2,957	3,033	3,185
Total ..	113,834	144,876	152,625	156,162	154,158

The total increase in the number of hands employed during the period covered by the above table was 40,324, which represented an advance of about 35 per cent. The greatest development had taken place in clothing factories, industries connected with food, drink, &c., and metal works, which showed increases of 11,592, 5,566, and 5,247 respectively in the number of persons employed in 1924-25 as compared with the number in 1915.

Size of factories. An examination of the figures relating to the number of factories in 1915 and in 1924-25 shows that percentage increases were more pronounced in the smallest sized factories and in those employing from 21 to 50 hands and from 51 to 100 hands. In the case of persons employed, the largest percentage increases were in the groups 51 to 100 hands, under 4 hands, and 21 to 50 hands respectively. Particulars of factories of different sizes in 1915 and 1924-25 are given in the next two tables:—

FACTORIES ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF HANDS EMPLOYED.

Size of Factory.	Number of Factories.			Average Number of Persons Employed.		
	1915.	1924-25.	Increase.	1915.	1924-25.	Increase.
			%			%
Under 4 hands..	1,147	1,787	55·80	2,631	3,872	47·17
4 " ..	624	764	22·44	2,496	3,056	22·44
5 to 10 " ..	1,805	2,259	25·15	12,390	15,706	26·76
11 to 20 " ..	827	1,169	41·35	12,011	17,068	42·10
21 to 50 " ..	608	902	48·36	19,621	28,661	46·07
51 to 100 " ..	214	312	45·79	14,693	21,960	49·46
Over 100 " ..	188	232	23·40	49,992	63,835	27·69
Total ..	5,413	7,425	37·17	113,834	154,158	35·42

PROPORTION OF FACTORIES OF DIFFERENT SIZES.

Size of Factory.			Percentage to Total.			
			Factories.		Persons Employed.	
			1915.	1924-25.	1915.	1924-25.
Under 4 hands .. ..	..	..	21·19	24·07	2·31	2·51
4 " .. ..	..	..	11·53	10·29	2·19	1·98
5 to 10 " .. ..	..	..	33·34	30·43	10·89	10·19
11 to 20 " .. ..	..	..	15·29	15·74	10·55	11·07
21 to 50 " .. ..	..	..	11·23	12·15	17·24	18·59
51 to 100 " .. ..	..	..	3·95	4·20	12·90	14·25
Over 100 " .. ..	..	..	3·47	3·12	43·92	41·41
Total .. ..	..	..	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

**Occupations
in factories.**

In the following table the persons employed in factories are grouped according to their occupational status :—

OCCUPATIONS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES.

Occupations.	1915.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Working proprietors ..	5,366	6,645	6,904	7,296	7,500	7,255
Managers, overseers ..	3,347	4,354	4,454	4,673	4,929	5,043
Accountants, clerks ..	4,062	6,106	6,307	6,582	6,966	6,827
Engine-drivers, firemen	1,685	2,108	2,156	2,106	2,197	2,142
Workers in factory or works	94,338	116,650	119,598	126,791	129,617	128,706
Outworkers	1,473	1,151	1,476	1,228	870	728
Carters, messengers ..	2,657	2,964	3,115	3,316	3,378	2,766
Others	906	765	866	633	705	691
Total ..	113,834	140,743	144,876	152,625	156,162	154,158

Outworkers. The term "outworker" used in the above table relates to factory workers working in their own homes, but does not include individuals working for themselves. The employment of outworkers is regulated by a special provision of the Factories and Shops Act. They are required to register their names and addresses with the Chief Inspector of Factories, and factory proprietors are forbidden to give work to those who are not registered.

Sex distribution in factories. The average numbers of males and females employed in factories and their proportions to the male and female populations, for the years 1915 to 1924-25, were as follows :—

EMPLOYMENT OF MALES AND FEMALES IN FACTORIES.

Year.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Number.	Average per 10,000 of Male Population.	Number.	Average per 10,000 of Female Population.	Number.	Average per 10,000 of Total Population.
1915 ..	75,971	1,097	37,863	522	113,834	798
1916-17 ..	74,924	1,123	42,046	574	116,970	836.
1917-18 ..	76,654	1,142	41,587	562	118,241	838
1918-19 ..	81,357	1,188	40,992	550	122,349	855
1919-20 ..	92,101	1,243	44,421	588	136,522	913
1920-21 ..	96,379	1,277	44,364	580	140,743	926
1921-22 ..	97,789	1,279	47,087	599	144,876	934
1922-23 ..	103,092	1,307	49,533	618	152,625	960
1923-24 ..	107,578	1,334	48,584	593	156,162	961
1924-25 ..	105,984	1,286	48,174	578	154,158	930

Males formed 66·7 per cent. in 1915 and 68·8 per cent. in 1924-25 of the total persons employed. The increase during the period 1915 to 1924-25 in the number of males employed was 30,013, or 39·5 per cent., and in the number of females employed, 10,311 or 27·2 per cent.

Of the total females in factories 72·4 per cent. are engaged in the textile and clothing industries, and 10·7 per cent. in the preparation of food and drink. The extent of female employment in certain industries is shown in the next table :—

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES, 1924-25.

Industry.	Number Employed.		Females per 100 Males.
	Males.	Females.	
Oatmeal, &c.	401	351	87·53
Biscuit	807	633	78·44
Jam, pickle, and sauce	1,466	1,035	70·60
Confectionery	1,910	1,877	98·27
Tobacco, &c.	1,173	645	55·00
Woollen mills	2,224	2,853	128·29
Clothing, tailoring, &c.	2,221	7,632	343·63
Dressmaking, millinery	423	7,916	1,871·39
Underclothing	430	5,109	1,188·14
Hats, caps, &c.	692	1,004	145·09
Hosiery	648	3,779	583·18
Waterproof clothing	73	188	257·53
Boots and shoes	6,947	5,152	74·16
Printing, &c.	6,409	1,664	25·96
Bookbinding, stationery, &c.	705	619	87·80
Fancybox, &c.	317	825	260·25
Rope, twine	501	390	77·84
Sail, tent	134	102	76·12
Ammunition	86	66	76·74
Match	196	463	236·22
Fancy leather	466	346	74·25
Rubber goods	1,905	536	28·14
All other factories	75,850	4,989	6·58
Total	105,984	48,174	45·45

A favorable feature of factory statistics has been the small proportion of children engaged in factories. Of the male and female employees, boys and girls under 16 constituted 4·05 and 6·78 per cent. respectively in 1924-25, as against 4·71 and 5·89 per cent. in 1915. The number of children

employed in factories and their proportions to the total employees are given in the subjoined table for the years 1915 to 1924-25 :—

CHILDREN EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES.

Year.	Boys under 16.	Girls under 16.	Total Children.	Proportion per cent. of—		
				Boys to Male Employees.	Girls to Female Employees.	Children to Total Employees.
1915 ..	3,355	2,197	5,552	4·71	5·89	5·12
1916-17 ..	3,072	2,301	5,373	4·37	5·55	4·81
1917-18 ..	3,195	2,447	5,642	4·45	5·97	5·00
1918-19 ..	3,137	2,389	5,526	4·15	5·90	4·73
1919-20 ..	3,721	2,872	6,593	4·04	6·47	4·83
1920-21 ..	3,715	2,798	6,513	4·11	6·39	4·86
1921-22 ..	3,780	3,120	6,900	4·13	6·71	5·00
1922-23 ..	4,031	3,163	7,194	4·18	6·48	4·95
1923-24 ..	4,057	3,422	7,479	4·03	7·15	5·03
1924-25 ..	4,027	3,223	7,250	4·05	6·78	4·94

**Machinery
in factories.**

In the following table are shown the number of factories using mechanical power, the total horse-power of the engines used, and the value of the machinery and plant for the ten years 1915 to 1924-25 :—

MACHINERY IN FACTORIES.

Year.	Number of Factories equipped with Machinery.	Value of Machinery and Plant.	Horse-power of Engines.
		£	
1915	4,089	11,068,949	117,815
1916-17	4,226	11,732,062	136,985
1917-18	4,371	12,612,797	149,095
1918-19	4,470	13,645,220	153,408
1919-20	4,737	15,846,935	166,803
1920-21	5,161	18,179,385	182,143
1921-22	5,473	21,182,110	191,881
1922-23	5,762	23,994,715	216,427
1923-24	6,030	28,223,915	314,561
1924-25	6,168	32,563,815	374,064

The nature of the power used and the capacity of the machinery in the factories of the State are set out in the next table. Establishments using more than one kind of mechanical power are included once only in the first portion, usually under the power which is principally used. The second portion shows the total horse-power of engines used.

POWER USED IN FACTORIES, 1915 TO 1924-25.

Year.	Number of Factories using—					
	Steam.	Gas.	Electricity.	Oil.	Water, Wind, or Horses.	Manual Labour.
1915	961	824	1,915	330	59	1,324
1916-17	931	800	2,142	311	42	1,219
1917-18	896	784	2,365	285	41	1,256
1918-19	875	782	2,481	297	35	1,250
1919-20	910	761	2,712	315	39	1,301
1920-21	941	705	3,128	360	27	1,371
1921-22	935	666	3,474	364	34	1,280
1922-23	910	655	3,795	372	30	1,334
1923-24	885	540	4,174	402	29	1,259
1924-25	812	476	4,448	403	29	1,257

Year.	Actual Horse-power of Engines.				
	Steam.	Gas.	Electricity.	Oil.	Total.
1915	71,223	17,935	26,385	2,272	117,815
1916-17	81,611	18,651	34,348	2,375	136,985
1917-18	89,561	19,045	38,246	2,243	149,095
1918-19	91,245	18,929	40,791	2,443	153,408
1919-20	95,747	19,183	48,814	3,059	166,803
1920-21	103,048	19,331	56,602	3,162	182,143
1921-22	106,882	19,327	62,663	3,009	191,881
1922-23	112,547	18,968	81,679	3,233	216,427
1923-24	195,744	18,394	95,340	5,083	314,561
1924-25	233,290	17,869	117,525	5,380	374,064

Although steam is the principal motive power, and was used to supply 62 per cent. of the total mechanical power employed in factories in 1924-25, a remarkable development is shown in the use of electricity, which in 1915 was used by 1,915, and in 1924-25 by 4,448 factories, the actual horse-power increasing from 26,385 to 117,525 in the same period.

Wages in
factories.

The total amount and the average amount of salaries and wages paid to male and female employees in factories are given in the following table:—

SALARIES AND WAGES PAID IN FACTORIES.

Year.	Salaries paid to Managers and Clerks.		Wages paid to Factory Workers.		Average Salary of Managers and Clerks.		Average Wage of Factory Workers.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1915 ..	1,232,981	133,362	7,928,871	1,741,131	205 10 7	94 11 8	121 13 9	48 10 0
1916-17	1,364,269	171,675	8,226,582	2,070,991	220 3 0	97 3 1	128 7 8	52 2 7
1917-18	1,462,220	190,707	8,679,530	2,170,144	231 4 4	99 15 11	132 8 6	55 10 1
1918-19	1,625,584	208,524	9,906,082	2,340,213	244 5 4	101 7 5	141 19 8	60 19 0
1919-20	1,937,959	270,875	12,515,207	2,948,132	264 8 1	118 6 9	157 16 8	70 17 5
1920-21	2,384,372	310,024	15,284,545	3,398,275	298 19 7	124 15 2	185 12 4	82 5 11
1921-22	2,563,467	357,691	16,933,984	3,991,353	316 18 11	133 16 4	202 19 11	91 2 11
1922-23	2,761,045	394,366	18,038,101	4,353,650	331 10 9	134 14 8	204 12 2	94 16 5
1923-24	3,003,855	436,425	19,577,822	4,453,982	339 19 1	142 13 5	212 19 0	99 7 1
1924-25	3,055,257	443,678	19,460,304	4,484,904	347 18 0	143 13 7	214 15 5	109 1 3

The particulars appearing in the above table reveal a steady increase in the average earnings of males and females, this being shown both in the salaries of managers, overseers, and clerks, and in the wages of factory workers generally. The amounts drawn regularly by working proprietors (exclusive of profits) amounted to £1,538,868 for males and £74,043 for females, or an average for the former of £233 8s. 11d., and for the latter £111 13s. 7d.

The amount of wages paid during the year 1924-25, £29,057,052, represented an average payment for all persons of £188 9s. 9d., which was an increase of £3 13s. 10d. on the average wage for 1923-24, of £12 14s. on that for 1922-23, of £15 13s. on that for 1921-22, of £29 1s. 5d. on that for 1920-21, of £52 19s. 4d. on that for 1919-20, of £68 0s. 4d. on that for 1918-19, of £77 14s. 5d. on that for 1917-18, of £82 12s. 3d. on that for 1916-17, and of £86 14s. 9d. on that for 1915. Concurrent with this increase there was a slight change in the relative proportions of male and female workers during the ten years, the percentages of male to total employees being 69 in 1920-21 and 1924-25, 68 in 1915, 1919-20, 1921-22, 1922-23, and 1923-24, 67 in 1918-19, 65 in 1917-18, and 64 in 1916-17. The above average wage for 1924-25 (£188 9s. 9d.) was probably below the average according to the determinations of Wages Boards. This is mainly accounted for by the fact that the former sum is based on the actual payments to workers, while the latter represents the average of the sums to which they would have been entitled if they had worked throughout the whole year. There is, of necessity, a difference between the two averages, as all hands are not continuously employed, nor are all factories working throughout the whole year.

The cost of production and the value of the output in each class of manufacturing industry during the year 1924-25 are given in the subjoined statement :—

FACTORY COSTS AND OUTPUT, 1924-25.

Class of Industry.	Cost of—			Value of Output.
	Raw Materials Used.	Fuel, Light, and Power Used.	Salaries and Wages Paid.	
	£	£	£	£
Treating raw material, product of pastoral pursuits, &c. ..	4,586,380	108,804	868,816	6,263,122
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c. ..	1,134,909	39,706	200,563	1,724,696
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c. ..	763,117	452,766	1,413,537	3,726,707
Working in wood ..	2,464,935	58,450	2,246,906	5,945,476
Metal works, machinery, &c. ..	6,353,560	297,890	5,399,881	14,366,598
Connected with food and drink, &c. ..	26,406,668	656,848	3,885,390	36,560,899
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c. ..	13,181,874	253,318	6,842,876	23,990,812
Books, paper, printing, &c. ..	2,588,785	117,106	2,456,585	6,524,054
Musical instruments, &c. ..	120,132	2,652	107,289	280,812
Arms and explosives ..	176,109	12,900	89,774	361,712
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c. ..	1,047,480	41,520	1,357,188	3,061,616
Ship and boat building and repairing ..	26,423	5,001	105,763	163,696
Furniture, upholstery, and bedding ..	1,277,236	26,021	921,789	2,660,821
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products ..	1,658,402	70,714	572,013	3,013,154
Surgical and other scientific instruments ..	32,852	1,179	45,789	108,657
Jewellery, time-pieces, and plated-ware ..	248,748	7,554	227,504	600,070
Heat, light, and power ..	1,487,348	721,579	1,545,550	5,878,055
Leatherware, n.e.i. ..	326,785	4,042	154,966	569,910
Minor wares, n.e.i. ..	1,323,490	86,585	614,873	2,376,531
Total ..	65,205,233	2,964,635	29,057,052	118,177,398

The difference between the sum of the first three columns and the last column represents the amount available for miscellaneous expenses, interest, and profit. The proportions which this margin and the chief items of the cost of production bear to the total value

of production in each class of industry are shown in the following table :—

PROPORTIONATE VALUE OF COSTS, ETC., TO PRODUCTION
IN FACTORIES, 1924-25.

Class of Industry.	Percentage of Costs, &c., to Total Value of Production.			
	Materials.	Fuel, Light, &c.	Wages.	All other Expenditure, Interest, and Profit.
	%	%	%	%
Treating raw material, product of pastoral pursuits, &c.	73·2	1·7	13·9	11·2
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c.	65·8	2·3	11·6	20·3
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c.	20·5	12·2	37·9	29·4
Working in wood	41·4	1·0	37·8	19·8
Metal works, machinery, &c.	44·2	2·1	37·6	16·1
Connected with food and drink, &c.	72·2	1·8	10·6	15·4
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c.	54·9	1·1	28·5	15·5
Books, paper, printing, &c.	39·7	1·8	37·6	20·9
Musical instruments, &c.	42·8	0·9	38·2	18·1
Arms and explosives	48·7	3·6	24·8	22·9
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c.	34·2	1·4	44·3	20·1
Ship and boat building and repairing	16·1	3·1	64·6	16·2
Furniture, upholstery, and bedding	48·0	1·0	34·6	16·4
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products	55·0	2·3	19·0	23·7
Surgical and other scientific instruments	30·2	1·1	42·1	26·6
Jewellery, time-pieces, and plated-ware	41·4	1·3	37·9	19·4
Heat, light, and power	25·3	12·3	26·3	36·1
Leatherware, n.e.i.	57·3	0·7	27·2	14·8
Minor wares, n.e.i.	55·7	3·6	25·9	14·8
Total	55·2	2·5	24·6	17·7

There are considerable variations in the proportions which the cost of materials and the expenditure on wages bear to the value of the output in the different classes of industries. These are, of course, due to the difference in the treatment required to present the raw material in its manufactured form. Thus in brickworks, &c., the sum paid in wages represents 38 per cent. and the cost of raw materials 20 per cent. of the value of the finished article, whilst in the industries connected with food and drink the expenditure on wages amounts to 11 per cent. and that on raw materials to over 72 per cent. of the value of the output.

Cost of
production,
1915 to
1924-25.

In the next table the cost of production, the value of the output of factories, and the balance available for profit and miscellaneous expenses are compared for the years 1915 to 1924-25 :—

**COST OF PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF OUTPUT OF
FACTORIES, 1915 TO 1924-25.**

Year.	Cost of Production.				Total Value of Output.
	Materials.	Fuel, Light, and Power.	Salaries and Wages.	All other Expenditure, Interest, and Profit.	
	£	£	£	£	£
1915	30,728,743	834,966	11,036,345	8,866,039	51,466,093
1916-17 ..	37,103,750	1,024,156	11,833,517	10,085,861	60,047,284
1917-18 ..	42,133,636	1,248,186	12,502,601	11,182,292	67,066,715
1918-19 ..	52,098,737	1,457,124	14,080,403	12,559,413	80,195,677
1919-20 ..	65,563,104	1,723,220	17,702,173	16,486,866	101,475,363
1920-21 ..	65,401,425	2,184,096	21,377,216	17,045,557	106,008,294
1921-22 ..	60,352,561	2,329,760	23,846,495	19,714,365	106,243,181
1922-23 ..	62,658,163	2,443,681	25,547,192	20,637,307	111,286,343
1923-24 ..	62,217,874	2,803,239	27,472,084	21,428,730	113,921,927
1924-25 ..	65,205,233	2,964,635	29,057,052	20,950,478	118,177,398

These figures are reduced in the appended statement to their proportionate value of the total output.

**PROPORTION OF OUTLAY TO OUTPUT OF FACTORIES,
1915 TO 1924-25.**

Year.	Proportion of Outlay to Output.				Total.
	Materials.	Fuel, Light, and Power.	Salaries and Wages.	Other Expenditure, Interest, and Profit.	
	%	%	%	%	%
1915	59·7	1·6	21·5	17·2	100·0
1916-17 ..	61·8	1·7	19·7	16·8	100·0
1917-18 ..	62·8	1·9	18·6	16·7	100·0
1918-19 ..	65·0	1·8	17·5	15·7	100·0
1919-20 ..	64·6	1·7	17·4	16·3	100·0
1920-21 ..	61·7	2·0	20·2	16·1	100·0
1921-22 ..	56·8	2·2	22·4	18·6	100·0
1922-23 ..	56·3	2·2	23·0	18·5	100·0
1923-24 ..	54·6	2·5	24·1	18·8	100·0
1924-25 ..	55·2	2·5	24·6	17·7	100·0

The apparent decrease for 1924-25 in the balance available for profit and miscellaneous expenses, as shown in the two preceding tables, is due to the fact that the amount of salaries and wages includes for the first time the sums drawn regularly by working proprietors (£1,612,911).

The ratio of salaries and wages to the value of the output of factories was 22·9 per cent. on the average of the last five years, as against 18·6 per cent. in the period 1915 to 1919-20. The cost of materials was 56·8 per cent. of the value of output in the period 1920-21 to 1924-25, as compared with 63·2 per cent. in the years 1915 to 1919-20. The proportionate outlay on fuel, light, and power has remained fairly uniform during the past ten years. The balance available for miscellaneous expenses, rent, interest, and manufacturers' profit was £17 19s. 2d. in every £100 of the total output value in the period 1920-21 to 1924-25, as compared with £16 8s. 7d. in the preceding five-year period.

**Capital
invested in
manufacturing
plant and
premises.**

In the following statement the amount of capital invested in machinery and plant and land and buildings used in connexion with the various classes of manufacturing industries is shown for the year 1924-25 :—

MACHINERY, PLANT, LAND AND BUILDINGS USED IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, 1924-25.

Class of Industry.	Value of Machinery and Plant.	Value of Land and Buildings.
	£	£
Treating raw material, product of pastoral pursuits, &c.	735,715	932,750
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c.	263,325	221,105
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c.	1,217,620	1,129,700
Working in wood	1,201,440	1,046,340
Metal works, machinery, &c.	3,260,495	3,389,340
Connected with food and drink, &c.	5,448,321	5,253,495
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c.	4,172,360	6,449,935
Books, paper, printing, &c.	2,625,065	2,497,240
Musical instruments, &c.	41,110	145,960
Arms and explosives	268,395	263,460
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c.	412,240	1,562,780
Ship and boat building and repairing	85,025	272,875
Furniture, upholstery, and bedding	222,660	918,215
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products	726,325	642,420
Surgical and other scientific instruments	15,125	75,810
Jewellery, time-pieces, and plated-ware	68,045	257,555
Heat, light, and power	10,965,390	2,713,840
Leatherware, n.e.i.	44,735	163,690
Minor wares, n.e.i.	787,425	531,650
Total	32,563,815	28,468,160

The capital invested in plant, buildings, &c., used in connexion with three classes of industries—food and drink; clothing and textile fabrics; and heat, light and power—amounted, in the year under review, to £35,001,340, or more than one-half of the total for all manufacturing industries.

The values of machinery and plant and of land and buildings used in connexion with manufacturing industries are shown in the next table for the years 1915 to 1924-25 :—

MACHINERY, PLANT, LAND AND BUILDINGS USED IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, 1915 to 1924-25.

Year.						Value of Machinery and Plant.	Value of Land and Buildings.
						£	£
1915	..	..	..	..	..	11,068,949	11,460,123
1916-17	..	..	..	..	..	11,732,062	12,052,227
1917-18	..	..	..	..	..	12,612,797	12,847,485
1918-19	..	..	..	..	..	13,645,220	13,673,515
1919-20	..	..	..	..	..	15,846,935	14,957,585
1920-21	..	..	..	..	..	18,179,385	17,313,350
1921-22	..	..	..	..	..	21,182,110	19,810,170
1922-23	..	..	..	..	..	23,994,715	22,428,525
1923-24	..	..	..	..	..	28,223,915	24,972,560
1924-25	..	..	..	..	..	32,563,815	28,468,160

It will be seen from these figures that the values of machinery and plant and land and buildings increased by 171 per cent. between 1915 and 1924-25.

In the appended table the number of accidents in factories is given for the last ten years. The particulars in the table relate to establishments which came within the scope of the Factories Acts in force in the years specified, and not to those classified for statistical purposes in the preceding tables.

The large increase shown in the number of accidents since 1919 is mainly attributable to an amendment of the law, which made compulsory the reporting of accidents. Previously, only those of a serious nature were reported.

ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES, 1915 to 1924.

Year.			Number of Employees.	Number of Accidents.	Percentage of Accidents to Number of Employees.
1915	..	..	91,888	464	·505
1916	..	..	92,320	503	·544
1917	..	..	97,561	442	·453
1918	..	..	104,242	459	·440
1919	..	..	116,369	362	·311
1920	..	..	116,846	862	·737
1921	..	..	117,633	830	·705
1922	..	..	126,630	787	·621
1923	..	..	128,915	1,034	·802
1924	..	..	129,147	1,052	·814

Manufactures— The foregoing tables do not include particulars relating to
Penal work of various kinds done by the Penal Department at
Department Pentridge and the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind.
and Blind
Institute.

At the former establishment the manufacture of wire netting, clothing, brushware, boots, mats, blankets, flannel, underclothing, bread, and printing are carried on. The estimated value of the output for 1924-25 was £47,058, and of the materials used, £36,345. The articles produced are used principally by Government Departments. The work carried on by the latter is the manufacture of brooms, brushware, wickerware, and coir mats and matting, and gives employment to 139 persons (117 males and 22 females). The value of the work turned out for the period under review was £26,568.

Value of The value of all articles produced or manufactured in
Victorian Victoria has been compiled from actual returns or esti-
production. mates in the office of the Government Statist, and the results are set forth in the following table :—

VALUE OF VICTORIAN PRODUCTION, 1920-21 to 1924-25.

Produce.	Value in—				
	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
<i>Cultivation.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Wheat	14,307,277	10,509,945	8,031,875	8,189,069	11,993,546
Oats	1,295,229	931,346	1,416,355	1,455,331	934,538
Barley, malting ..	263,963	221,757	298,792	195,545	258,263
" other	183,389	179,843	137,445	66,665	95,743
Maize	186,529	194,358	205,314	253,276	137,948
Other Cereals ..	49,532	66,537	75,553	71,173	53,227
Grass and Clover					
Seed	8,570	6,113	3,537	3,880	3,886
Potatoes	586,458	555,111	1,040,662	701,229	682,878
Onions	131,104	157,930	139,888	215,444	209,803
Other Root Crops ..	13,151	11,259	11,800	15,032	12,340
Hay	5,259,863	4,413,091	6,327,338	5,229,162	3,639,496
Straw	75,015	66,164	76,644	66,677	66,920
Green Forage* ..	397,620	447,050	512,255	536,855	497,655
Tobacco	3,800	24,160	35,600	41,880	49,120
Grapes, not made					
into wine, raisins,					
&c.	21,010	39,978	71,793	45,589	45,372
Raisins, ordinary ..	84,533	125,154	132,308	27,420	57,867
" sultanas ..	263,772	445,319	555,059	122,775	733,919
Currants	157,298	187,805	171,642	57,027	110,099
Wine	333,346	166,883	171,749	217,713	153,986
Hops	14,988	22,650	23,195	29,772	53,000
Other Crops	57,027	68,536	81,447	104,066	78,848
Fruit grown for sale					
in orchards and					
gardens	1,054,491	1,184,069	1,172,325	1,193,689	1,091,508
Fruit in private					
orchards and gar-					
dens	15,250	12,660	10,670	10,505	9,945
Market Gardens ..	427,035	500,640	493,780	810,600	731,000
Less Deductions ..	..	..	..	..	-3,535,135
Total	25,190,350	20,538,158	21,197,026	19,660,374	18,165,772

* Exclusive of area under sown grasses.

VALUE OF VICTORIAN PRODUCTION, 1920-21 TO 1924-25—continued.

Produce.	Value in—				
	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
<i>Dairying and Pastoral.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Milk consumed in natural state ..	2,622,010	2,027,040	1,995,280	2,130,345	1,784,590
Butter made ..	7,043,950	5,127,570	6,660,600	6,491,310	6,618,240
Cheese made ..	189,070	203,620	163,180	253,795	204,890
Cream made (not for butter) ..	76,560	80,130	127,530	177,090	190,540
Condensed, .. Concentrated, and Powdered Milk ..	1,885,080	2,074,620	1,434,720	1,509,400	1,582,915
Horses ..	..	71,800	..	..	..
Cattle ..	5,269,650	3,099,300	3,384,270	1,413,310	3,588,240
Pigs ..	1,260,680	1,277,730	1,280,040	1,507,600	1,588,620
Sheep (without wool) ..	1,750,220	1,991,600	3,752,260	2,600,450	4,390,880
Wool ..	4,729,400	4,662,750	6,380,600	7,695,000	11,440,240
Less Deductions ..	..	..	..	..	-1,723,178
Total ..	24,816,620	20,616,160	25,178,480	23,778,300	29,615,977
<i>Mining.</i>					
Gold ..	648,969	443,938	453,962	405,245	285,316
Coal ..	528,919	634,397	695,480	563,239	610,671
Stone from Quarries (including limestone) ..	383,002	434,520	468,468	518,064	530,820
Other Metals and Minerals ..	46,755	30,299	48,021	45,829	41,848
Total ..	1,607,645	1,543,154	1,665,881	1,532,427	1,468,655
<i>Forest Produce.</i>					
Timber (Forest Saw-mills only) ..	905,720	896,070	946,930	942,480	745,580
Firewood (estimated) ..	923,200	918,550	927,860	1,033,700	1,053,870
Bark for Tanning ..	125,830	138,520	136,830	130,660	132,935
Total ..	1,954,750	1,953,140	2,011,620	2,106,840	1,932,385
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>					
Honey and Beeswax ..	45,346	48,075	40,122	45,559	78,981
Poultry production (estimated) ..	4,545,620	4,406,750	4,315,810	4,587,560	4,443,200
Rabbits and Hares ..	401,690	238,632	266,478	310,930	403,680
Fish ..	167,340	149,400	160,151	161,905	164,296
Total ..	5,159,996	4,842,857	4,782,561	5,105,954	5,090,157
Total Value of Primary Products ..	58,729,361	49,493,469	54,835,568	52,183,895	56,272,946
Manufacturing—Added Value* ..	38,330,232	43,592,856	46,355,804	49,141,526	45,271,348
Grand Total ..	97,059,593	93,086,325	101,191,372	101,325,421	101,544,294

* Exclusive of value of output of butter and cheese factories, and forest saw-mills (as regards Victorian timber), which is included above under the headings "Dairying and Pastoral" and "Forest Produce," respectively.

The figures in the above table under the headings "Cultivation" and "Dairying and Pastoral" are not strictly comparable with those of previous years owing to certain deductions (in addition to freight and

handling charges) having been made for the first time this year, consisting chiefly of cost of bags, cases, seed, manure, spraying material, and produce used in the production of crops in the former, and of hay, bran and pollard, green fodder, and root crops used as fodder in the case of the latter.

Similarly the value added to material during the process of manufacture has been estimated on a somewhat different basis to that adopted in previous years, the cost of fuel and light, tools replaced, repairs and depreciation, having been taken into account for the first time. This explains the apparent decrease in value under that head.

The values of different kinds of production per head of the total population in each of the last five years were as follows:—

**VALUE OF PRODUCTION PER HEAD OF POPULATION,
1920-21 to 1924-25.**

Produce.	Value of Produce per head in—				
	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cultivation ..	16 11 6	13 4 10	13 6 7	12 1 11	10 19 3
Dairying and Pastoral	16 6 7	13 5 10	15 16 8	14 12 7	17 17 5
Mining ..	1 1 2	0 19 11	1 0 11	0 18 10	0 17 9
Forest ..	1 5 9	1 5 2	1 5 4	1 5 11	1 3 4
Miscellaneous ..	3 7 10	3 2 5	3 0 2	3 2 10	3 1 5
Total Primary Production	38 12 10	31 18 2	34 9 8	32 2 1	33 19 2
Manufactures ..	25 4 5	28 2 2	29 3 0	30 4 8	27 6 5
Grand Total	63 17 3	60 0 4	63 12 8	62 6 9	61 5 7

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR VICTORIA, 1836 to 1924.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Year.	Population on 31st December.			Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Immi- grants (by Sea).	Emi- grants (by Sea).
	Persons.	Males.	Females.					
1836	224	186	38	1	3	..	..	..
1840	10,291	7,254	3,037	358	198	177	4,080	..
1850	76,162	45,495	30,667	2,673	780	969	10,760	3,304
1860	537,847	328,251	209,596	22,863	12,061	4,351	29,037	21,689
1870	726,599	398,755	327,844	27,151	10,420	4,732	32,554	21,087
1880	860,067	451,456	408,611	26,148	11,652	5,286	56,955	45,294
1890	1,133,266	596,064	537,202	37,578	18,012	9,187	79,777	63,820
1900	1,197,206	602,487	594,719	30,779	15,215	8,308	82,157	83,684
1910	1,301,408	646,482	654,926	31,437	14,736	10,240	82,594	77,951
1911	1,339,893	668,818	671,075	33,044	15,217	11,088	106,349	93,246
1912	1,382,553	690,056	692,497	35,817	16,595	11,738	124,527	99,933
1913	1,415,416	707,444	707,972	35,978	15,475	11,324	114,586	101,718
1914	1,435,188	713,307	721,881	36,225	16,503	11,830	109,149	*99,043
1915	1,424,445	694,210	730,235	35,010	15,823	12,832	*85,977	*82,189
1916	1,404,663	666,245	738,418	34,239	16,489	11,341	*80,458	*76,687
1917	1,417,060	671,075	745,985	33,035	14,555	9,506	*58,976	*58,774
1918	1,437,245	684,243	753,002	31,601	15,177	9,156	*48,566	*51,631
1919	1,503,035	739,956	763,079	31,621	19,370	11,706	*33,621	*37,099
1920	1,527,909	753,803	774,106	36,214	16,832	14,898	*65,595	59,956
1921	1,550,686	764,905	785,781	35,593	16,165	13,676	66,537	63,944
1922	1,590,225	788,626	801,599	36,288	15,156	12,996	81,903	66,355
1923	1,625,380	806,546	818,834	35,876	17,219	13,126	87,248	69,986
1924	1,657,095	824,182	832,913	36,139	16,503	13,296	88,467	72,548

* Exclusive of members of the Australian Expeditionary Forces.

STATE FINANCE.

Year ended June—	General Revenue.	General Expenditure.	Expenditure by Government from Loan Funds.	Loan Expenditure on—		
				Railways.	Country Water Supply.	Closer Settlement (Including Soldier Settlement).
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1836*	..	2,165	..	..	..	..
1840*	255,984	70,129	..	..	..	..
1850*	259,433	196,440	..	..	..	..
1860*	3,082,461	3,315,307	†	†	†	..
1870*	3,261,883	3,428,382	†	†	†	..
1880	4,621,282	4,875,029	1,435,376	1,209,892†	37,982	..
1890	8,519,159	9,645,737	4,188,934	3,260,244	427,186	..
1900	7,453,355	7,285,636	1,033,588	594,484	144,149	63,985
1910	8,760,305	8,742,293	1,209,505	657,666	286,823	198,945
1911	9,372,637	9,362,291	2,657,271	1,230,381	311,709	956,900
1912	10,181,840	10,171,386	2,974,149	1,703,453	259,281	889,000
1913	10,508,945	10,479,741	2,202,697	1,231,113	256,724	569,473
1914	10,958,037	10,944,718	3,282,386	2,468,338	239,963	273,189
1915	10,529,017	11,706,968	4,912,585	3,172,444	304,766	211,636
1916	11,470,875	11,683,363	4,047,651	2,440,317	347,135	81,490
1917	11,813,879	11,795,295	2,306,627	1,266,352	287,561	92,700
1918	12,672,787	12,631,169	1,901,747	761,705	284,020	282,970
1919	13,044,088	12,979,407	2,627,716	577,356	414,459	1,105,541
1920	15,866,184	15,752,459	7,502,756	1,146,593	484,325	5,221,221
1921	19,054,475	18,941,698	11,099,694	1,413,434	810,437	6,936,252
1922	20,357,733	20,297,279	11,880,927	3,886,534	968,047	4,287,132
1923	21,634,677	21,611,309	8,764,306	1,674,643	1,210,485	2,420,764
1924	23,075,968	23,050,968	8,407,526	1,395,282	1,415,109	2,433,330
1925	24,384,887	24,250,483	7,940,589	1,379,182	1,405,623	1,725,960
Total to date	—	—	142,921,375	66,145,550	15,923,080	29,435,387

NOTE.—For expenditure by the Country Roads Board, see page 616.

* Year ended 31st December.

† Details of Loan Expenditure for each year prior to 1872-3 are not available. The total loan expenditure up to 30th June, 1872, was £12,484,568, of which £9,790,526 had been expended on Railways, and £876,062 on Country Water Supply.

‡ Including purchase money of the late Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway Company's lines.

STATE AND MUNICIPAL FINANCE.

Year.	Public Debt at end of Financial Year.	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.			Shires and Road Districts.		
		No.	Total Value of Rateable Property.	Revenue.	No.	Total Value of Rateable Property.	Revenue.
	£		£	£		£	£
1857	828,700	19	16,520,160	219,960	16	2,890,550	58,113
1860	5,118,100	41	19,512,925	324,728	42	8,242,199	122,470
1870	11,924,800	65	22,607,630	386,676	108	25,322,054	528,881
1880	20,056,600	57	31,199,483	416,765	117	52,647,936	405,187
1890	41,377,693	59	86,226,966	925,638	133	108,086,680	925,673
1900	49,324,885	58	67,302,423	657,775	150	106,839,331	531,102
1910	55,576,721	60	114,113,507	1,015,028	146	150,970,220	754,586
1911	57,983,764	61	119,400,893	1,056,575	146	155,677,624	761,853
1912	60,737,000	61	127,743,501	1,149,044	147	160,128,933	796,472
1913	62,776,724	61	137,649,219	1,259,569	147	164,268,467	840,080
1914	66,130,726	61	147,205,224	1,320,545	147	167,405,523	854,483
1915	73,083,927	52	149,235,137	1,378,006	141	169,724,979	827,466
1916	76,775,032	51	154,105,571	1,407,021	139	172,309,539	847,206
1917	78,125,395	52	158,777,843	1,487,526	139	172,558,872	875,940
1918	79,595,646	52	164,306,704	1,598,643	139	176,297,529	927,901
1919	82,031,929	52	172,838,636	1,857,884	139	184,599,186	1,022,241
1920	87,647,739	55	193,947,624	2,053,584	138	205,555,121	1,171,379
1921	97,317,831	53	210,501,055	2,314,017	139	215,984,328	1,279,099
1922	109,099,199	53	233,586,201	2,648,855	139	221,623,773	1,382,922
1923	118,562,029	53	264,693,364	2,992,159	139	235,274,597	1,496,764
1924	124,108,326	53	288,230,793	3,354,343	139	251,480,405	1,646,410

EXPENDITURE BY THE COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.

Year.	Expenditure on Maintenance of Roads.*	Loan Expenditure on—		Total Expenditure on Construction and Maintenance of Roads.
		Construction Works.†	Developmental Roads.‡	
	£	£	£	£
1913-14	9,490	24,440	..	33,930
1914-15	49,888	342,681	..	392,569
1915-16	98,879	464,787	..	563,666
1916-17	130,537	226,603	..	357,140
1917-18	173,785	226,395	1,703	401,883
1918-19	179,133	284,734	47,561	511,428
1919-20	192,303	335,755	315,701	843,759
1920-21	221,395	271,850	693,245	1,186,490
1921-22	267,969	288,864	626,998	1,183,831
1922-23	288,129	266,046	364,112	918,287
1923-24	343,233	200,755	467,329	1,011,317
Total	1,954,741	2,932,910	2,516,649	7,404,300

* One-half of this expenditure is repaid by the municipalities affected annually.

† One-half of this expenditure is repaid by the municipalities over a period of 31½ years.

‡ The municipalities pay, during the period of the loan, a proportion of the interest on the expenditure incurred in making these roads, and they maintain the roads after they have been constructed.

BANKING.

Year.	Ordinary Banks.					Savings Banks.*		
	No. of Banks.	Paid-up Capital.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Deposits.	No. of Savings Banks.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Balances.
		£	£	£	£			£
1854	6	3,367,560	10,536,528	7,494,909	5,068,792	4	2,761	180,020
1860	9	6,134,657	12,693,727	9,238,731	7,225,728	9	10,135	484,501
1870	10	8,305,224	16,866,405	12,357,571	10,899,026	123	41,738	1,047,147
1880	11	9,126,250	23,284,822	19,488,512	17,972,703	202	92,115	1,661,409
1890	16	13,281,790	60,937,955	42,224,084	40,292,065	360	281,509	5,262,105
1900	11	13,746,458	41,755,928	31,895,571	30,638,285	371	375,070	9,110,793
1910	11	13,933,729	47,341,431	44,746,441	43,188,975	416	560,515	15,417,887
1911	12	14,529,658	49,343,205	48,158,503	47,485,600	423	595,424	17,274,423
1912	12	14,529,735	49,543,884	47,836,052	47,258,048	422	641,736	19,662,465
1913	16	23,677,252	50,335,420	49,255,216	48,686,121	433	674,542	21,508,125
1914	16	25,074,076	51,996,067	51,819,656	50,896,536	445	705,029	23,258,775
1915	16	25,112,160	59,449,407	55,813,235	54,040,102	451	721,936	24,874,811
1916	17	26,519,044	63,435,125	60,195,632	59,202,831	461	746,597	26,143,908
1917	17	27,006,166	59,737,528	65,329,672	64,042,657	459	780,139	28,344,042
1918	16	27,013,981	75,489,092	78,296,932	76,390,503	464	813,031	30,756,929
1919	16	28,155,048	70,903,238	80,028,961	78,518,187	468	850,486	34,104,110
1920	17	35,915,745	88,536,893	88,049,750	86,085,423	473	886,344	37,232,543
1921	16	36,001,087	84,033,765	83,741,022	82,249,429	484	928,009	42,956,461
1922	15	37,786,681	85,914,172	91,368,158	89,833,392	499	970,431	45,968,222
1923	16	40,256,301	96,577,390	97,593,150	96,089,113	518	1,015,346	49,540,039
1924	16	42,179,247	94,129,436	94,783,736	93,024,661	540	1,059,008	51,497,200

* Post Office Savings Banks were first opened in 1865. Particulars relating to Post Office Savings Banks are for the years ended 31st December; those relating to Trustee Savings Banks are for the years ended 30th June. They were merged into one institution on 1st October, 1897.

CROWN LANDS ; COMMERCE.

Year	Crown Land Sales.		Imports.	Exports.	Total Exports of Victorian Produce.	Exports Oversea of—	
	Area Sold.	Amount Realized.	Total Value.	Total Value.		Butter.	
						Quantity.	Value.
	acres.	£	£	£	£	lbs.	£
1857	500,383	1,067,450	17,256,209	15,079,512	..	572,770	16,240
1860	492,248	663,238	15,093,730	12,962,704	11,061,076	705,040	27,974
1870	337,507	463,821	12,455,758	12,470,014	9,103,323	137,475	4,704
1880	409,738	471,824	14,556,894	15,954,559	11,220,467	1,096,401	29,996
1890	249,373	322,946	22,954,015	13,266,222	10,291,821	1,297,777	47,972
1900	494,694	526,650	18,301,811	17,422,552	13,918,556	32,087,739	1,243,260
1910	127,890	171,904	*	*	*	39,698,122	1,780,044
1911	121,062	136,277	*	*	*	51,304,010	2,361,587
1912	128,069	165,854	*	*	*	31,451,378	1,545,771
1913	152,989	164,065	*	*	*	34,542,925	1,681,987
1914	129,235	145,003	*	*	*	† 9,373,252	† 475,898
1915	117,161	113,167	*	*	*	† 16,630,637	† 800,385
1916	89,177	80,238	*	*	*	† 11,417,311	† 719,653
1917	81,991	79,992	*	*	*	† 30,706,719	† 2,189,052
1918	76,039	78,235	*	*	*	† 24,323,648	† 1,664,299
1919	100,945	114,654	*	*	*	† 23,969,104	† 1,860,415
1920	187,228	192,861	*	*	*	† 24,170,187	† 2,089,296
1921	109,874	100,890	*	*	*	† 32,813,204	† 4,027,256
1922	106,286	118,698	*	*	*	† 45,985,904	† 3,026,447
1923	142,812	167,669	*	*	*	† 41,653,344	† 3,190,805
1924	126,123	167,322	*	*	*	† 35,578,812	† 2,751,312
1925	..	..	*	*	*	† 53,731,160	† 4,051,632

* Information not available owing to the Federal Government having abandoned the collecting and recording of Inter-State imports and exports from 13th September, 1910.

† For period of six months to 30th June.

† For year ended 30th June.

NOTE.—In addition to the quantity of land actually sold and the amount realized for sales effected and completed within the year, the figures under the head "Crown Land Sales" represent during each of the years after 1868 the total extent of, and the amount paid on lands purchased under deferred payments on which the payments were completed within the year, although such payments had extended over a series of years. The extent selected, of which the purchase had not been completed, is not included in the area sold. This amounted, at the end of 1924, to 8,468,825 acres. The figures for 1894 include 12,221 acres disposed of to Messrs. Chaffey Bros. in previous years at £1 per acre, which area and amount were not previously taken into account. The figures for 1895 include 11,584 acres granted without purchase to Messrs. Chaffey Bros.; but, except for this, lands granted without purchase, which amounted, up to the end of 1924, to 128,775 acres (including 50,000 granted to Messrs. Chaffey Bros.), are excluded.

The figures for 1894 and 1895 which are referred to above appear on page 601 of the Year-Book for 1920-21.

COMMERCE—*continued*.

Year.	Value of Australian Produce Exported Oversea.	Value of Oversea Imports.	Value of Oversea Exports.	Value of Total Oversea Trade.
	†	†	†	†
	£	£	£	£
1859 ..	*	12,873,360	12,558,129	25,431,489
1860 ..	*	12,736,535	11,390,445	24,126,980
1870 ..	*	10,608,267	11,236,300	21,844,567.
1880 ..	*	9,034,538	12,151,798	21,186,336
1890 ..	*	15,161,356	9,553,031	24,714,387
1900 ..	11,855,052	11,937,644	12,165,364	24,103,008
1910 ..	17,388,708	20,002,606	18,188,236	38,190,842
1911 ..	17,936,017	21,850,963	18,915,716	40,766,679
1912 ..	18,366,092	25,081,074	19,113,121	44,194,195
1913 ..	16,750,278	24,387,073	17,837,591	42,224,664
1914 (to 30th June) ..	8,746,861	12,718,794	8,994,698	21,713,492
1914-15 ..	12,009,497	21,050,310	12,349,662	33,399,972
1915-16 ..	14,279,482	26,761,922	14,748,730	41,510,652
1916-17 ..	18,668,224	25,474,839	19,030,146	44,504,985
1917-18 ..	20,270,842	21,113,588	20,716,688	41,830,276
1918-19 ..	27,682,262	35,026,311	28,095,159	63,121,470
1919-20 ..	42,236,835	33,788,287	43,124,940	76,913,227
1920-21 ..	33,890,767	57,608,777	34,871,961	92,480,738
1921-22 ..	33,681,068	36,352,056	34,644,182	70,996,238
1922-23 ..	33,148,563	46,729,100	33,768,701	80,497,801
1923-24 ..	29,088,613	49,592,643	29,612,548	79,205,191
1924-25 ..	41,105,425	54,294,705	41,680,909	95,975,614

* Information not available.

† The figures in these columns refer only to Imports from and Exports to countries beyond Australia.

COMMERCE—continued.

Year.	Exports (Oversea) of—						
	Wool.		Tallow.		Wheat.		Frozen Meats.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.
	lbs.	£	cwt.	£	bushels.	£	£
1850	17,780,000	815,892	87,763	130,397	85	21	..
1860	24,216,847	2,021,396	6,029	15,687	328	165	..
1870	51,830,526	3,199,309	197,420	358,092	5,294	1,458	..
1880	111,509,915	6,372,306	134,022	191,531	2,378,097	539,421	..
1890	131,041,074	5,862,011	162,140	156,535	505,025	95,930	..
1900	100,743,853	4,164,656	153,340	171,327	6,246,645	874,323	432,120
1910	164,213,073	7,190,789	248,735	378,924	15,319,971	3,091,079	888,001
1911	159,955,473	6,255,599	334,937	480,256	20,351,479	3,592,534	941,406
1912	166,859,531	6,990,918	229,638	324,497	9,183,280	1,836,387	889,297
1913	143,391,292	6,282,291	258,969	371,316	11,220,525	2,053,454	1,565,061
1914*	44,626,388	1,979,174	156,470	227,759	17,579,763	3,260,551	710,018
1914-15	115,234,566	5,251,177	143,695	192,400	786,432	160,642	1,779,952
1915-16	100,526,942	6,203,565	24,831	45,214	9,974,218	2,767,099	140,973
1916-17	84,127,550	6,149,212	106,260	246,091	18,089,912	4,177,726	630,494
1917-18	87,681,189	6,820,006	44,819	133,577	10,050,700	2,776,635	478,921
1918-19	146,762,561	10,968,651	177,489	467,529	15,070,085	3,923,715	891,297
1919-20	156,458,960	12,800,519	265,870	1,037,986	28,675,295	7,983,987	4,096,685
1920-21	118,862,086	8,909,004	101,400	282,306	21,760,063	10,086,400	1,036,982
1921-22	193,425,056	11,185,526	203,829	336,869	32,268,626	9,182,731	1,132,230
1922-23	204,143,606	16,115,971	278,058	451,405	9,252,600	2,498,066	2,448,056
1923-24	118,152,098	13,067,701	99,118	188,767	16,762,086	3,922,823	707,179
1924-25	117,325,046	14,446,378	215,726	441,986	31,777,857	10,413,976	1,123,529

* Period of six months to 30th June.

COMMERCE ; SHIPPING.

Year.	Exports (Oversea) of—			Shipping.			
	Flour.		Hides and Skins.	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Quantity.	Value.		Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
	tons.	£	£				
1850 ..	..	..	1,245	555	108,030	508	87,087
1860 ..	995	17,713	141,194	1,814	581,642	1,841	599,137
1870 ..	1,077	13,423	23,141	1,759	630,474	1,834	645,571
1880 ..	11,742	113,404	86,127	1,648	1,006,478	1,688	1,028,721
1890 ..	7,323	68,036	163,258	2,076	2,119,171	2,078	2,128,895
1900 ..	21,672	132,398	271,691	1,928	2,901,619	1,935	2,912,696
1910 ..	68,766	609,960	1,296,516	2,308	4,952,273	2,312	4,954,773
1911 ..	79,684	629,427	1,089,451	2,335	5,148,184	2,347	5,156,952
1912 ..	68,782	600,267	1,329,400	2,399	5,426,146	2,385	5,410,801
1913 ..	84,689	710,416	1,688,409	2,481	5,950,035	2,469	5,902,277
1914*..	48,113	398,442	552,211	1,281	3,150,689	1,297	3,208,400
1914-15	21,058	191,214	885,075	2,324	5,290,063	2,329	5,308,817
1915-16	55,600	653,490	534,440	2,392	4,935,129	2,385	4,902,245
1916-17	101,991	1,213,751	548,736	1,962	4,042,819	1,967	4,050,095
1917-18	135,180	1,529,789	478,236	1,721	2,871,343	1,724	2,873,770
1918-19	144,073	1,707,399	1,078,163	1,730	2,870,974	1,709	2,815,938
1919-20	207,616	3,259,296	1,947,747	1,792	3,987,262	1,809	4,021,188
1920-21	87,422	1,900,888	784,421	2,246	4,663,126	2,248	4,651,818
1921-22	145,127	2,157,754	768,010	2,442	5,506,127	2,436	5,518,393
1922-23	178,812	2,024,921	1,562,572	2,634	6,611,352	2,634	6,618,968
1923-24	211,685	2,175,854	1,704,857	2,666	6,782,495	2,676	6,749,873
1924-25	177,778	2,408,542	2,158,241	2,577	6,807,357	2,605	6,876,355

* Period of six months to 30th June.

POST OFFICE, TELEGRAPHS, AND TELEPHONES.

Year.	Postage.			Electric Telegraphs.			Tele- phones.§
	Number of Post Offices.	Number of Letters.†	Number of Newspapers.	Number of Stations.	Number of Miles of Wire.	Number of Telegrams.‡	Number of Sub- scribers.
1860	311	8,116,302	5,683,023	33	*	166,803	..
1870	677	11,133,283	5,287,482	95	3,371	454,598	..
1880	1,100	24,195,149	10,640,540	284	6,019	1,160,912	..
1890	1,671	62,526,448	22,729,005	748	13,499	3,114,783	2,307
1900	1,615	74,291,204	25,466,342	824	15,198	1,993,009	5,136
1910	1,657	143,483,191	*	1,374	16,405	2,757,737	20,236
1911	1,720	159,092,011	36,125,728	1,455	17,403	2,894,664	22,859
1912	1,730	175,588,805	37,826,929	1,538	18,649	2,969,237	26,562
1913	1,749	189,975,987	40,950,516	1,648	19,403	2,971,041	30,640
1914	1,816	188,440,698	40,737,663	1,748	26,146	3,267,195	34,071
1915-16	1,787	191,427,078	40,246,088	1,796	28,937	3,335,026	36,372
1916-17	1,782	201,093,447	43,175,024	1,711	29,446	3,428,871	38,025
1917-18	1,726	197,830,163	36,695,699	1,695	29,606	3,532,430	40,754
1918-19	1,715	188,526,047	34,982,384	1,671	30,860	3,804,234	44,035
1919-20	1,707	197,080,463	31,756,907	1,663	29,955	4,490,656	49,017
1920-21	1,712	180,797,030	31,660,611	1,703	31,243	4,096,843	52,791
1921-22	1,721	170,337,926||	31,293,290||	1,791	31,839	3,940,167	55,986
1922-23	1,736	178,682,295||	37,264,106||	1,858	32,594	4,094,863	61,201
1923-24	1,774	195,166,640||	40,241,184||	2,040	35,043	4,308,242	71,138
1924-25	1,785	205,819,138||	44,828,254||	2,219	38,388	4,461,790	81,794

* Information not available.

† Post cards were first issued in April, 1876. They are included with letters in this column.

‡ Telegrams on Railway service are not included in 1890 and subsequent years. There was a reduction in the rates for telegrams in 1885 which led to a large increase in their number.

§ The Telephone system was taken over by the Post Office on 22nd September, 1887. Previously it was worked as a private undertaking.

|| Exclusive of letters and newspapers posted in other States for delivery in Victoria, which are included in all previous years. In 1920-21 these numbered:—Letters, 20,681,335; newspapers, 2,218,408.

STATE RAILWAYS, ETC.

Year.	State Railways.					Churches, Chapels, and Buildings used for Public Worship.
	Miles Con- structed.	Capital Cost.	Total Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Train Miles Travelled.	
		£	£	£		
1880	1,199	18,041,295	1,492,917	814,075	4,380,802	3,307
1890	2,471	32,588,375	3,131,866	2,132,158	11,773,152	4,583
1900	3,186	39,496,247	3,025,162	1,902,540	10,107,549	5,037
1910	3,544	43,091,478	4,455,748	2,827,735	12,045,866	4,748
1911	3,576	44,021,212	4,909,062	3,109,323	13,319,572	4,887
1912	3,675	45,603,114	5,233,979	3,455,086	14,203,681	4,946
1913	3,700	47,076,911	5,222,271	3,605,001	14,648,489	4,993
1914	3,888	49,311,907	5,581,474	3,886,348	15,570,098	5,173
1915	3,928	51,620,187	5,183,687	4,528,316	15,880,677	5,134
1916	4,153	54,560,106	5,730,743	4,141,588	14,424,357	5,059
1917	4,176	55,808,163	5,980,638	4,305,958	14,594,775	5,042
1918	4,205	56,694,141	6,593,873	4,603,905	14,147,896	5,010
1919	4,245	57,658,557	6,476,076	4,474,771	13,587,968	4,953
1920	4,270	58,496,357	8,287,063	6,265,754	15,687,177	4,720
1921	4,322	60,012,250	9,851,908	8,093,869	16,583,638	4,997
1922	4,372	63,186,759	10,857,853	8,287,146	15,830,605	4,846
1923	4,389	64,938,085	11,413,782	8,442,214	16,323,481	5,068
1924	4,490	66,212,984	12,025,987	8,982,880	17,245,219	4,964
1925	4,539	67,470,720	12,630,283	9,704,455	18,172,188	..

NOTE.—The figures for 1880 in relation to State Railways are for the calendar year; those for 1890 and subsequent years relate to the period of twelve months ending 30th June of the year mentioned in the table.

[illegible]

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ; OLD-AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS.

Year.	Friendly Societies.*				Old-age and Invalid Pensions.†		
	Number of Branches.	Average Number of Members.	Receipts.	Funds at end of Year.	Old-age.	Invalid.	Amounts Expended.
			£	£	No.	No.	£
1860	61	5,028	20,084	26,421.	..	..	..
1870	592	34,224	117,295	186,384	..	..	..
1880	748	45,876	171,987	450,719	..	..	..
1890	1,003	86,450	322,747	909,504	..	..	..
1900	1,132	96,802	372,631	1,318,165	..	..	..
1910	1,475	139,308	534,616	2,122,602	20,218	..	470,658
1911	1,498	145,439	559,585	2,246,396	23,722	2,272	573,699
1912	1,505	151,262	580,371	2,361,464	24,449	3,162	672,593
1913	1,501	155,601	606,785	2,490,957	25,434	3,918	715,924
1914	1,524	158,511	620,765	2,644,216	27,150	4,844	795,449
1915	1,533	158,746	634,649	2,775,787	28,365	6,054	839,718
1916	1,522	157,819	672,650	2,912,178	28,446	6,869	908,159
1917	1,516	158,035	653,055	3,017,503	29,064	7,921	1,070,386
1918	1,496	153,870	658,435	3,073,083	29,159	8,901	1,168,498
1919	1,489	146,919	664,526	3,056,666	29,179	9,337	1,199,787
1920	1,475	143,651	681,232	3,173,678	29,565	10,277	1,348,100
1921	1,464	143,421	763,031	3,375,050	30,385	11,174	1,533,430
1922	1,467	145,254	790,788	3,549,798	30,958	11,444	1,581,898
1923	1,469	150,264	1,193,550	3,838,052	31,248	11,707	1,589,362
1924					32,603	12,220	1,947,069
1925					33,845	12,950	2,027,202

*Until 1880 the figures given do not represent particulars of all the Friendly Societies in the State, but only of such as furnished returns. For that year and subsequent years the returns are complete. The figures for 1923-24 relate to a period of eighteen months ended 30th June, 1924.

† Old-age pensions were first granted in Victoria on 18th January, 1901, and the Commonwealth Government took over the administration on 1st July, 1909. The figures relate to the financial year ended 30th June.

LIVE STOCK ; CRIME.

Year.	Live Stock.				Crime : Number of Persons—			
	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Taken into Custody.*	Committed for Trial.*	Convicted after Commitment.*	Executed.
1860	76,536	722,332	5,780,896	61,259	29,030	1,329	796	3
1870	167,220	721,096	10,761,887	130,946	22,527	908	573	5
1880	275,516	1,286,267	10,360,285	241,936	22,843	680	398	1
1890	436,469	1,782,881	12,692,843	282,457	37,339	1,129	662	..
1900	392,237	1,602,384	10,841,790	350,370	26,104	575	374	1
1910	472,080	1,547,569	12,882,665	333,281	19,070	503	354	..
1911	507,813	1,647,127	13,857,804	348,069	19,398	522	334	..
1912	530,494	1,508,089	11,892,224	240,072	19,814	518	352	1
1913	562,331	1,528,553	12,113,682	221,277	21,554	568	352	..
1914	552,053	1,362,542	12,051,685	243,196	21,084	518	342	..
1915	493,779	1,043,604	10,545,632	192,002	20,276	561	391	..
1916	514,403	1,175,098	12,576,587	254,436	17,599	509	343	2
1917	514,061	1,371,049	14,760,013	323,159	12,689	440	276	..
1918	523,788	1,596,544	15,773,902	267,819	10,346	340	209	2
1919	513,500	1,631,120	14,422,745	186,810	11,993	506	307	..
1920	487,503	1,575,159	12,171,084	175,275	14,582	759	442	..
1921	496,124	1,750,369	12,325,818	230,770	15,249	715	483	..
1922	494,947	1,785,660	11,765,520	294,962	16,163	684	434	1
1923	486,075	1,591,367	11,059,761	259,795	17,223	570	361	..
1924	473,236	1,605,554	12,649,898	288,509	17,786	514	347	1

* The figures prior to 1900 represent the number of offences with which persons arrested were charged ; those for 1900 and subsequent years represent distinct arrests.

MINERAL PRODUCTION.

Year.	Gold Raised.		Black Coal Produced.		Other Minerals.	Total.
	Estimated Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Value.
	oz. gross.	£	tons.	£	£	£
1870	1,304,304	5,217,216	100	100	24,421	5,241,737
1880	829,121	3,316,484	..	..	30,936	3,347,420
1890	588,560	2,354,240	14,601	13,899	16,311	2,384,450
1900	807,407	3,229,628	211,596	101,599	49,017*	3,380,244
1910	609,998	2,422,745	369,059	188,977	139,434	2,751,156
1911	542,074	2,140,855	653,864	298,829	178,107	2,617,791
1912	516,255	2,039,464	589,143	258,455	201,796	2,499,715
1913	467,052	1,847,475	593,912	274,371	222,898	2,344,744
1914	443,347	1,755,236	617,536	288,535	235,238	2,279,009
1915	352,272	1,397,793	588,104	274,770	282,884	1,955,447
1916	276,188	1,090,194	417,183	216,292	229,901	1,536,387
1917	217,092	857,500	466,220	335,259	307,473	1,500,232
1918	171,271	674,655	439,575	349,696	317,971	1,342,322
1919	146,981	575,260	423,946	372,075	382,791	1,330,126
1920	165,115	648,969	442,241	464,739	493,937	1,607,645
1921	114,602	443,938	514,859	603,323	495,893	1,543,154
1922	117,944	453,962	559,284	664,251	547,668	1,665,881
1923	105,111	405,245	476,823	525,270	601,912	1,532,427
1924	74,638	285,316	518,315	569,555	613,784	1,468,655

* From 1900 the production of stone quarries is included in the value of mineral production; before 1894 it was included in the output of manufacturing industries.

AGRICULTURE.

Year.	Total Area Cultivated.	Area under each Description of Tillage.					
		Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1850-51	52,340 $\frac{1}{2}$	28,510 $\frac{1}{4}$	5,007 $\frac{3}{4}$	2,101 $\frac{3}{4}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	..
1860-61	407,740 $\frac{1}{4}$	161,251 $\frac{3}{4}$	86,337 $\frac{1}{4}$	4,123 $\frac{1}{4}$	1,650	111 $\frac{3}{4}$	662
1870-71	762,031	284,167	149,309	19,646	1,014	1,168	4,366
1880-81	1,742,949	977,285	134,089	68,630	1,769	1,569	23,378
1890-91	2,417,527	1,145,163	221,048	87,751	10,357	948	25,992
1900-01	3,717,002	2,017,321	362,689	58,853	9,389	823	7,812
1910-11	5,386,247	2,398,089	392,681	52,687	20,151	2,640	11,068
1911-12	5,109,849	2,164,066	302,238	53,541	18,223	1,098	11,535
1912-13	5,706,579	2,085,216	439,242	71,631	19,986	1,428	11,875
1913-14	6,129,893	2,565,861	442,060	83,351	17,962	1,779	12,630
1914-15	5,969,304	2,863,535	434,815	62,492	19,433	1,955	12,944
1915-16	7,069,608	3,679,971	353,932	61,400	22,258	3,137	8,563
1916-17	6,750,894	3,125,692	441,598	93,015	23,076	3,481	9,956
1917-18	5,782,954	2,690,216	293,214	84,931	20,987	1,597	11,899
1918-19	5,491,020	2,214,490	342,867	100,198	22,559	982	12,398
1919-20	5,358,351	1,918,269	559,547	85,323	23,474	784	9,655
1920-21	6,425,250	2,295,865	443,636	93,954	24,149	1,717	7,655
1921-22	6,583,276	2,611,198	318,681	100,127	23,227	1,320	9,423
1922-23	7,049,429	2,644,314	492,356	102,773	25,846	1,291	12,287
1923-24	6,976,441	2,454,117	520,654	56,564	29,104	899	12,195
1924-25	6,976,664	2,705,323	517,229	63,764	23,126	1,029	12,787

AGRICULTURE—continued.

Year.	Produce.						
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.	Potatoes.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	tons.
1850-51	556,167	99,535	40,144	4	..	..	5,613
1860-61	3,459,914	2,633,693	83,854	25,045	1,720	11,973	77,258
1870-71	2,870,409	2,237,010	240,825	20,028	14,856	73,449	127,579
1880-81	9,727,369	2,362,425	1,068,830	49,299	13,978	403,321	129,262
1890-91	12,751,295	4,919,325	1,571,599	574,083	17,583	739,310	204,155
1900-01	17,847,321	9,582,332	1,215,478	604,180	11,989	146,357	123,126
1910-11	34,813,019	9,699,127	1,340,387	982,103	32,647	223,284	163,312
1911-12	20,891,877	4,585,326	1,024,584	792,660	9,981	181,113	119,092
1912-13	26,223,104	8,323,639	1,744,527	715,299	17,141	232,856	191,112
1913-14	32,936,245	8,890,321	1,812,890	800,529	19,029	226,564	176,602
1914-15	3,940,947*	1,608,419	600,599	1,018,419	13,415	124,612	189,225
1915-16	58,521,706	9,328,894	1,734,511	999,886	42,857	151,508	173,821
1916-17	51,162,438	8,289,289	1,799,784	1,172,330	42,953	162,951	187,992
1917-18	37,737,552	6,141,287	1,970,650	1,152,787	17,021	213,840	182,195
1918-19	25,239,871	5,274,984	2,028,635	711,679	7,428	160,419	137,533
1919-20	14,858,380	6,603,067	1,528,654	878,922	8,547	128,639	145,888
1920-21	39,468,625	10,907,191	2,495,762	1,065,880	21,359	146,150	171,628
1921-22	43,867,596	6,082,258	2,336,248	951,960	14,442	182,579	173,660
1922-23	35,697,220	8,093,459	2,442,041	879,915	15,718	238,552	148,354
1923-24	37,795,704	9,366,205	1,455,435	1,464,731	11,151	253,908	238,520
1924-25	47,364,495	9,572,003	1,444,823	891,987	13,000	274,391	139,043

* In 1914-15 the almost total failure was due to drought.

AGRICULTURE—continued.

Year.	Area under each Description of Tillage.						
	Potatoes.	Mangel-wurzel.	Beet, Carrots, Parsnips, and Turnips.	Onions.	Hay.	Green Forage.	Chicory.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1850-51	2,837 $\frac{3}{4}$	..	..	..	13,567	130	..
1860-61	24,841 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,029	1,228 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	90,920 $\frac{3}{4}$	6,020 $\frac{3}{4}$	..
1870-71	39,026	957	1,886	287	163,181	6,868	220
1880-81	45,951	1,284	808	1,056	249,656	9,617	230
1890-91	53,818	892	708	2,238	413,052	10,091	258
1900-01	38,477	636	507	2,815	502,105	18,975	184
1910-11	62,904	1,254	872	6,161	832,669	71,826	467
1911-12	47,692	797	658	3,652	860,205	75,177	399
1912-13	47,575	1,121	627	4,977	1,203,728	84,460	506
1913-14	74,574	952	470	6,121	977,684	98,963	531
1914-15	65,495	893	563	8,937	895,755	139,654	595
1915-16	56,910	1,091	758	9,294	1,330,455	60,426	805
1916-17	73,618	860	524	6,324	897,186	49,667	658
1917-18	66,966	690	500	5,134	748,808	55,903	664
1918-19	51,620	581	407	5,512	984,479	73,641	536
1919-20	53,918	547	460	6,863	1,116,998	89,802	295
1920-21	62,687	524	410	8,000	1,333,397	79,524	392
1921-22	63,895	560	401	6,158	1,159,135	89,410	615
1922-23	61,741	684	433	6,954	1,261,408	102,451	739
1923-24	59,306	854	538	4,714	1,277,603	107,371	608
1924-25	61,295	736	238	4,504	1,120,312	99,531	309

AGRICULTURE—continued.

Year.	Area under each Description of Tillage.							Artificial Grass.*
	Grass and Clover Seeds.	Hops.	To-bacco.	Vines.	Other Crops.	Gardens and Orchards.	Land in Fallow.	
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1850-51	..	..	..	161½	..	..	..	..
1860-61	..	..	91	1,138	579½	7,298½	20,457½	11,640
1870-71	242	64	93	5,466	24	14,856	69,191	146,984
1880-81	2,817	428	1,990	4,980	984	22,288	194,140	254,994
1890-91	2,587	789	618	20,686	1,095	33,864	385,572	235,241
1900-01	2,235	401	109	30,634	2,671	57,496	602,870	207,896
1910-11	1,295	121	329	23,412	5,291	68,153	1,434,177	991,195
1911-12	1,188	122	356	24,193	4,785	70,316	1,469,608	1,041,772
1912-13	2,429	131	138	24,579	6,084	73,623	1,627,223	1,085,346
1913-14	1,452	117	284	22,435	6,135	77,960	1,738,572	1,094,566
1914-15	149	115	196	21,801	6,195	87,237	1,346,545	1,202,130
1915-16	2,435	107	160	22,353	5,711	91,499	1,358,343	1,182,995
1916-17	1,769	87	73	23,264	6,654	93,833	1,899,559	1,292,817
1917-18	2,312	64	82	25,236	5,842	95,180	1,672,729	1,268,310
1918-19	2,152	71	167	26,072	7,443	96,724	1,548,121	1,269,493
1919-20	1,235	72	406	27,441	6,757	98,969	1,357,536	1,062,244
1920-21	1,872	93	95	29,255	6,309	99,969	1,935,747	1,051,290
1921-22	1,800	104	604	33,175	6,684	103,795	2,052,964	1,032,104
1922-23	1,468	194	890	38,892	7,705	100,122	2,186,881	957,454
1923-24	1,306	224	1,047	42,599	10,656	101,782	2,294,297	938,547
1924-25	1,424	269	1,228	42,467	5,845	99,978	2,215,270	843,095

* Not included in land under cultivation.

AGRICULTURE—continued.

Year.	Produce.						
	Mangel- wurzel.	Beet, Carrots, Parsnips, and Turnips.	Onions.	Hay.	Chicory.	Grass and Clover Seeds.	Hops.
	tons.	tons.	cwt.	tons.	tons.	bushels.	cwt.
1850-51	..	..	..	20,971	..	..	..
1860-61	13,446	6,405	26,189	144,211	..	..	..
1870-71	10,521	10,363	32,900	183,708	1,349	2,652	318
1880-81	12,640	4,335	99,580	300,581	960	26,320	2,744
1890-91	14,676	8,556	279,220	567,779	1,859	36,415	7,931
1900-01	7,670	4,514	255,320	677,757	233	35,084	2,741
1910-11	17,654	7,481	749,680	1,292,410	432	16,262	737
1911-12	9,568	4,953	418,220	1,032,288	333	9,503	777
1912-13	14,615	5,628	572,820	1,572,933	500	23,206	1,387
1913-14	15,642	3,166	495,100	1,350,374	360	16,349	961
1914-15	9,921	2,249	630,560	568,956	380	1,100	903
1915-16	13,067	4,938	751,740	2,341,094	595	24,087	855
1916-17	10,307	2,025	563,260	1,232,721	515	13,174	975
1917-18	7,826	2,809	434,900	949,545	518	22,059	838
1918-19	9,818	2,412	484,220	1,113,861	485	15,443	522
1919-20	6,388	2,121	540,640	1,242,489	148	8,625	691
1920-21	6,742	2,289	859,700	1,984,854	310	11,555	1,199
1921-22	7,768	2,134	631,720	1,548,453	468	12,226	1,812
1922-23	8,120	1,878	888,180	1,665,089	640	7,859	2,071
1923-24	13,569	4,222	633,660	1,541,287	690	6,466	2,481
1924-25	10,022	1,847	531,100	1,492,588	314	8,597	4,240

AGRICULTURE—continued.

Year.	Produce.			
	Tobacco.	Grapes not made into Wine.	Grapes made into Wine.	Wine made.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	gallons.
1850-51 .. ..	..	..	..	4,621
1860-61	1,257	7,979	..	12,129
1870-71	467	26,296	98,642	629,219
1880-81	17,333	24,817	79,045	484,028
1890-91	326*	63,535	293,775	2,008,493
1900-01	311*	235,268	396,644	2,578,187
1910-11	1,090	397,808	194,630	1,362,420
1911-12	3,686	542,761	140,489	983,423
1912-13	661	564,991	168,588	1,206,111
1913-14	2,037	675,388	161,105	1,131,491
1914-15	1,192	528,468	92,408	605,636
1915-16	596	898,991	185,775	1,380,367
1916-17	410	827,967	185,230	1,302,660
1917-18	526	623,935	135,635	800,068
1918-19	1,825	804,124	215,255	1,349,309
1919-20	2,669	1,071,319	253,118	1,634,680
1920-21	908	717,069	355,698	2,222,305
1921-22	3,735	1,101,880	212,959	1,335,066
1922-23	4,151	1,607,512	272,462	1,717,490
1923-24	1,165	2,320,800	383,929	2,177,127
1924-25	†	1,925,959	216,390	1,363,765

* The tobacco crops of 1890-91 and 1900-1 failed in most parts of the State.

† Not available.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

Year.			Bacon and Hams Cured.	Cheese made.	Butter made.
			lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1891	..	..	*	3,311,012	16,703,786
1900	..	..	13,204,547	4,284,170	55,604,118
1910	..	..	16,581,361	4,530,893	70,603,787
1911	..	..	19,617,212	4,549,843	86,500,474
1912	..	..	20,094,206	4,176,778	67,655,834
1913	..	..	19,340,878	4,856,321	73,381,567
1914	..	..	18,861,755	4,395,502	62,421,288
1915	..	..	13,705,004	3,497,278	42,345,113
1916-17	..	..	18,146,328	5,869,562	59,568,771
1917-18	..	..	21,324,846	5,285,003	64,405,711
1918-19	..	..	22,212,395	6,055,964	66,240,403
1919-20	..	..	19,385,509	7,735,023	60,218,945
1920-21	..	..	15,139,100	3,636,571	64,938,458
1921-22	..	..	17,396,798	5,675,909	82,981,570
1922-23	..	..	19,269,124	3,754,958	84,355,939
1923-24	..	..	22,540,974	7,216,938	83,838,723
1924-25	..	..	21,993,869	6,193,135	100,849,382

* Not available.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

Year.	Value of Agricultural Production.						
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Malze.	Hay.	Potatoes.	Onions.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1904	3,119,878	465,257	123,423	79,967	861,479	417,150	116,721
1905	3,366,290	678,040	182,828	88,167	1,641,936	597,426	133,638
1906	3,109,980	810,851	205,832	70,496	1,681,768	333,678	79,800
1907	2,443,906	791,162	241,507	87,973	3,023,128	383,145	108,155
1908	4,405,303	989,844	253,309	116,402	3,256,308	411,840	138,408
1909	5,501,605	777,547	165,181	119,725	2,432,840	517,775	98,325
1910	5,512,060	909,295	227,382	96,166	2,455,560	534,515	63,723
1911	3,547,266	663,916	261,443	147,357	3,200,109	614,540	177,744
1912	4,343,202	953,750	332,430	119,305	4,010,979	678,448	176,142
1913	5,352,141	777,903	236,804	121,234	2,565,740	573,227	133,257
1914	1,391,647	397,078	161,899	234,597	4,181,827	800,269	167,098
1915	10,972,820	942,607	294,597	191,645	4,098,664	1,017,563	105,244
1916	10,232,488	828,929	299,481	163,638	2,033,990	550,086	118,423
1917	7,547,510	965,973	373,379	243,766	2,801,158	519,605	141,343
1918	5,994,469	1,175,882	461,056	190,522	4,622,523	1,079,496	236,451
1919	5,726,667	1,848,903	477,573	336,920	8,304,475	1,328,640	274,375
1920	14,307,377	1,295,229	447,352	186,529	5,259,863	586,458	131,104
1921	10,509,945	931,346	401,600	194,358	4,413,091	555,111	157,930
1922	8,031,875	1,416,355	436,237	205,314	6,327,338	1,040,662	139,888
1923	8,189,069	1,455,331	262,210	253,276	5,229,162	701,229	215,444
1924	11,993,546	934,538	354,006	137,948	3,639,496	682,878	209,803

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION—*continued.*

Year.	Value of Agricultural Production— <i>continued.</i>						
	Green Forage.	Raisins.	Currants.	Fruit (including Grapes not made into Wine).	Market Gardens.	All Other.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1904	74,755	49,526	9,757	405,263	197,600	295,437	6,216,213
1905	85,103	89,346	11,952	406,495	183,325	263,875	7,728,421
1906	91,255	180,473	21,994	524,962	197,650	267,808	7,576,547
1907	149,742	110,248	19,296	458,453	225,550	333,189	8,375,454
1908	157,665	102,483	21,472	441,700	231,975	478,577	11,005,286
1909	141,465	130,558	49,334	489,738	255,350	417,890	11,097,333
1910	179,565	132,262	48,829	586,084	269,450	397,695	11,412,586
1911	187,943	195,560	88,899	639,104	258,275	311,535	10,293,691
1912	211,150	213,818	60,421	696,029	260,350	373,633	12,429,657
1913	247,408	176,026	71,413	803,536	269,425	368,623	11,701,737
1914	418,962	181,177	37,085	536,797	323,375	352,819	9,184,630
1915	181,278	361,879	123,473	808,802	284,475	382,081	19,765,128
1916	149,001	227,448	91,355	633,718	268,650	359,317	15,956,524
1917	167,709	191,523	92,803	783,293	284,050	289,061	14,401,173
1918	368,205	317,668	139,880	934,677	405,790	435,485	16,362,104
1919	449,010	632,936	139,153	1,330,550	442,155	592,688	21,884,045
1920	397,620	348,305	157,298	1,090,751	427,035	555,429	25,190,350
1921	447,050	570,473	187,605	1,236,707	500,640	432,302	20,538,158
1922	512,255	687,367	171,642	1,254,788	493,780	479,525	21,197,026
1923	536,855	150,195	57,027	1,249,783	810,600	550,193	19,660,374
1924	497,655	791,786	110,099	1,146,825	731,000	471,327	18,165,772*

* The figures for 1924 are not comparable with those for former years. The cost of bags, cases, seed and spraying material has been deducted from the values of the various crops for the latest year. The value of hay and manure, viz. £3,535,135, which obviously cannot be deducted from any particular item, has been subtracted from the total value of Agricultural Production. Similar deductions were not made in other years.

PASTORAL AND DAIRY PRODUCTION.

Value of Pastoral and Dairy Production.									
Year.	Wool Produced.	Horses Produced.	Cattle Produced.	Sheep Produced.	Pigs Produced.	Milk Consumed in Natural State.*	Butter made.	Cheese made.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1904	3,543,810	198,456	1,740,767	1,429,970	380,616	696,972	2,414,695	89,022	10,494,308
1905	3,313,550	176,267	2,064,000	1,599,800	331,140	753,510	2,496,580	102,563	10,837,410
1906	3,869,000	335,538	2,480,226	1,913,202	325,381	817,317	2,978,860	116,860	12,836,384
1907	3,878,431	273,700	2,056,198	1,716,908	424,660	850,126	2,855,305	109,948	12,165,276
1908	3,556,168	15,274	298,606	597,880	380,650	845,004	2,388,743	126,252	8,208,577
1909	4,044,755	261,268	1,602,858	1,317,320	470,081	891,755	2,493,990	130,670	11,212,697
1910	4,318,100	388,556	1,860,888	1,298,740	541,785	1,020,360	3,109,510	105,340	12,643,279
1911	4,142,747	520,580	2,344,680	1,558,170	454,815	1,317,484	3,860,100	106,160	14,304,736
1912	3,751,083	328,020	1,165,430	709,660	389,350	1,805,320	3,478,640	125,480	11,752,983
1913	4,032,954	454,820	2,277,170	1,572,420	678,355	1,694,826	3,341,920	126,670	14,179,135
1914	3,410,913	..	1,766,473	1,134,678	735,065	1,821,580	2,998,820	117,210	11,984,739
1915	4,066,003	..	226,480	784,575	472,050	2,295,376	2,528,360	129,110	10,501,954
1916	5,927,814	262,020	4,774,610	3,928,860	825,450	2,451,170	4,224,420	223,040	22,617,384
1917	6,410,077	70,880	5,270,940	3,641,630	1,002,250	2,786,890	4,229,310	197,750	23,609,727
1918	7,621,410	97,640	5,383,660	3,288,330	884,280	3,395,940	4,868,670	257,880	25,796,910
1919	7,908,010	..	4,856,100	2,782,290	1,139,960	3,973,020	4,945,480	344,210	25,949,070
1920	4,729,400	..	5,269,650	1,750,220	1,250,680	4,583,650	7,043,950	189,070	24,516,620
1921	4,662,750	71,800	3,099,300	1,991,600	1,277,730	4,181,790	5,127,570	203,620	20,616,160
1922	6,380,600	..	3,384,270	3,752,260	1,280,640	3,557,530	6,660,600	163,180	25,178,480
1923	7,695,000	..	1,413,310	2,600,450	1,507,600	3,316,835	6,491,310	253,755	24,778,300
1924	11,440,240	..	3,538,240	4,390,880	1,588,620	3,558,045	6,618,240	204,890	29,615,977†

* Including cream not made into butter, and concentrated milk.

† The total value of pastoral and dairy production for 1924 is not comparable with former years. Deductions have been made for the value of hay, bran, pollard, green fodder and root crops used as fodder on the pastoral and dairy holdings of the State. The value of the products thus consumed was £1,723,178. This amount has been deducted from the total value of Pastoral and Dairy Production.

MANUFACTORIES (EXCLUSIVE OF QUARRIES).

Year.*	Number.	Number of Hands Employed.	Salaries and Wages Paid.	Value of Machinery, Plant, Land & Buildings.	Value of Output.
			£	£	£
1860 ..	566	5,467	..	..	..
1870 ..	1,579	17,630	..	..	..
1880 ..	2,468	38,178	..	7,465,328	13,370,836
1890 ..	3,104	56,369	..	16,773,448	22,390,251
1900 ..	3,097	64,207	..	11,894,949	19,478,780
1910 ..	4,873	102,176	7,600,932	16,613,348	36,660,854
1911 ..	5,126	111,948	8,911,019	18,257,889	41,747,863
1912 ..	5,263	116,108	10,102,244	19,457,795	45,410,773
1913 ..	5,613	118,744	10,714,336	20,775,738	47,936,647
1914 ..	5,650	118,399	11,099,940	21,975,646	49,439,985
1915 ..	5,413	113,834	11,036,345	22,529,072	51,466,093
1916 ..	5,445	116,970	11,833,517	23,784,289	60,047,284
1917 ..	5,627	118,241	12,502,601	25,460,282	67,066,715
1918 ..	5,720	122,349	14,080,403	27,318,735	80,195,677
1919 ..	6,038	136,522	17,702,173	30,804,520	101,475,363
1920 ..	6,532	140,743	21,377,216	35,492,735	106,008,294
1921 ..	6,753	144,876	23,846,495	40,992,280	106,243,181
1922 ..	7,096	152,625	25,547,192	46,423,240	111,286,343
1923 ..	7,289	156,162	27,472,084	53,196,475	113,921,927
1924 ..	7,425	154,158	29,057,052	61,031,975	118,177,398

* The figures for 1916 and subsequent years relate to the financial years ending on the 30th June following, i.e., 1916-17, 1917-18, &c.

INSURANCE, ETC.

Year.	Life Assurance.			Insurance—other than Life.		Amount Received from the Commonwealth Government by the State of Victoria.*
	Number of Policies.	Amount Assured.	Annual Premiums.	Premiums.	Losses.	
		£	£	£	£	£
1894 ..	131,210	23,095,900	..	..	..	..
1900 ..	172,713	26,315,862	..	..	..	..
1910 ..	292,055	36,495,251	1,315,172	851,949	353,348	1,922,278.
1911 ..	311,695	38,185,859	1,378,059	897,185	391,324	1,617,572
1912 ..	331,846	40,132,346	1,454,169	956,677	423,737	1,667,657
1913 ..	351,250	41,546,825	1,519,427	1,048,271	414,541	1,691,833
1914 ..	368,481	43,305,375	1,593,707	1,336,103	663,504	1,733,280
1915 ..	381,106	44,402,089	1,650,909	1,426,456	569,695	1,757,894
1916 ..	401,591	46,145,573	1,758,827	1,561,437	679,312	1,743,467
1917 ..	425,481	48,389,346	1,870,513	1,645,632	458,367	1,722,409
1918 ..	453,724	51,563,634	1,984,909	1,768,511	477,949	1,739,481
1919 ..	484,965	55,656,616	2,150,203	1,940,085	794,499	1,764,239
1920 ..	524,520	61,405,905	2,388,209	2,324,700	676,486	1,847,085
1921 ..	562,332	66,102,630	2,574,329	2,501,200	891,573	1,878,449
1922 ..	607,840	72,347,222	2,828,556	2,512,430	833,576	1,918,967
1923 ..	650,432	78,690,619	3,084,990	2,702,081	1,107,396	1,969,772
1924 ..	689,711	84,273,720	3,338,971	3,014,988	1,499,664	2,014,746
1925 ..	..	..	..	..	..	2,055,834

* Year ended 30th June.

APPENDIX.

Information received since the parts of the book which deal with the subjects mentioned were sent to press is given below :—

PART II.—FINANCE.

STATE SUPERANNUATION ACT 1925.

An Act (No. 3408) to make provision on a contributory basis for superannuation benefits for State public servants and railway employees was passed by the State Parliament on 24th November, 1925. The date of commencement of the Act was 25th November, 1925, and contributions were made payable as from the 1st January, 1926, which date is the "appointed day." Pensions were made payable as from the same date.

Superannuation Act.—A Fund has been established into which is paid the contributions of officers and the amounts received from the Government; also the income derived from investments. The benefits provided by the Act are paid from the Fund.

Board of Management.—The Fund is managed by a Board consisting of four members appointed by the Governor in Council for a term of five years. One of the members so appointed is Chairman of the Board, and one a qualified actuary. One member is elected by officers in the railway service and one by officers in the other services.

Retiring Age.—The maximum age for retirement is 65 years for males, and in the case of females, 60 or 65, at their option. An officer who is contributing for a pension payable at the age of 65 years may retire at any time after reaching the age of 60 years, and draw a pension which is the actuarial equivalent of a full pension. If he so desires, he may pay to the Fund the actuarial equivalent of the amount necessary to complete his payments to a later age and draw a higher rate of pension.

Contributions by Officers.—All officers in the various services, except those with existing pension rights, "twilighters," and those who were not less than 65 years of age on 1st January, 1926, are required to contribute to the Superannuation Fund. An officer over the age of 65 years on 1st January, 1926, cannot contribute to the Fund. He will be entitled on retirement to a free pension of a maximum amount of £104 per annum. Officers over the age of 30 years are entitled to contribute for a pension of £104 per annum at the rate prescribed for age 30. For higher amounts they pay half the full contribution required. Officers aged 30 and under contribute half the cost of their pensions.

Payments by Government.—The Government reimburses to the Fund the proportion of each pension which represents the equivalent of the

difference between the payment made by the contributor each year and the full annual contribution required to provide the pension.

Amount of Pension.—A unit of pension is £26 per annum. The amount of pension for which an officer may contribute is regulated by his salary. For example, a person aged 25 next birthday, whose salary exceeds £260 and does not exceed £312, makes a fortnightly contribution of 8s. 4d. for a pension of £130 per annum, with half pension for his widow and £13 per annum for each child under 16, until that age is attained. The pension to the officer commences at age 65, or on retirement before that age if that should take place by reason of ill-health or incapacity. The number of units an officer can take varies from a minimum of two (£52 per annum) to a maximum of twelve (£312 per annum).

Pensions to Widows and Children.—The widow and children of an officer who was a contributor or a pensioner at date of death are entitled to the following benefits:—

Widow.—One half the rate of pension for which the officer was contributing, or one half the rate of pension being drawn (as the case may be) at date of death, subject to a minimum of £26 per annum. Such pension ceases on re-marriage.

Children.—£13 per annum in respect of each child under the age of 16 years until that age is attained.

Retirement on the Ground of Ill Health.—Upon retirement on the ground of ill health or incapacity, if such ill health or incapacity is not due to contributor's own fault, a full pension is payable. If, however, the ill health or incapacity is due to his own fault he is entitled to the return of his contributions or a pension based on his contributions, at his option.

Officers with Existing Pension Rights.—A person may exchange such right for rights in the new scheme, thus enabling him to secure benefits for his widow and children under 16 years of age, and he may purchase from the Board a pension equivalent to the difference, if any, between the actuarial value of his existing right and the amount of pension for which he would have been entitled to contribute if he had not had an existing right. A widow's pension up to £52 per annum and a children's pension of £13 per annum for each child under 16 years of age may be purchased by an officer with an existing pension right or by a "twilighter."

Twilighters.—This term embraces the persons who entered the Public Service between the 31st December, 1881, and the 31st December, 1884, or who entered the Railway Service between the 31st December, 1883, and 31st December, 1884. The pension payable to a "twilighter" is one-half the amount that would have been payable if he had had the full pension right provided by Act No. 160, subject to a maximum of £312 per annum and a minimum of £104 per annum. If a full pension computed under Act No. 160 is less than £104, then the lesser amount is payable.

A "twilighter" who retired prior to the 1st July, 1924, and was then over 65 years of age, is entitled to a pension on the above basis payable from 1st January, 1926, but such pension does not carry reversionary rights to widow or children.

A "twilighter" who retired on or after 1st July, 1924, and before 1st January, 1926, is entitled to a pension calculated as stated above, and the first four units of such pension will carry widow's and children's benefits. The widow's pension will be at the rate of £52 per annum and the payment to children under 16 years of age will be £13 each year.

A "twilighter" who is employed on 1st January, 1926, and who retires on or after attaining the maximum age for retirement, which is 65 years for males and 60 years for females, or who retires on the ground of ill health, will be entitled to a pension equal to one half the amount that would have been payable had he had full pension rights under Act No. 160, subject to a maximum of £312 per annum and a minimum of £104 per annum, or the amount of pension which would have been payable under the Act referred to, whichever is the lower. This pension will not carry widow's or children's benefits, but these may be secured on terms prescribed by the Board, as well as a further pension representing the difference between the pension provided and that on the salary basis fixed by the Act.

Assurance Policies.—No officer will be required in future to effect an insurance on his life. Policies now held by the various authorities will be returned to the assured. Any moneys invested by an officer in lieu of assurance will be repaid on such officer becoming a contributor. On the application of an officer the Board may take over his assurance policy. If it decides to do so it will pay the premiums on the policy and at maturity date hand to the assured the proceeds thereof, less premiums paid by it with 4 per cent. compound interest.

REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, &c., OF VICTORIA, 1924-25.

	£
Public Revenue	24,304,887
Public Expenditure	24,170,483
Expenditure from Loan Funds	7,940,589
Public Debt, at 30th June, 1925—	£
Payable in London	51,869,204
Payable in Australia	79,300,361
Total	131,169,565

The interest on the public debt at 30th June, 1925, was £6,319,121, of which £2,319,483 was payable in London and £3,999,635 in Australia.

The amount collected by the State through Taxation in 1924-25 was £4,819,530, or £2 18s. 2d. per head of population.

PART III.—POPULATION.

Estimated population of the State of Victoria, 31st December, 1925 :—

Males	..	..	..	..	..	838,693
Females	..	..	..	..	..	845,324
Total	..	..	..	..	..	<u>1,684,017</u>

Estimated population of Melbourne and suburbs, 31st December 1925, 912,130.

PART VI.—ACCUMULATION.

Bank Deposits in Victoria, 31st December, 1925 :—

					£
Ordinary Banks	..	..	..	..	84,782,182
Commonwealth Bank	..	..	..	..	6,400,619
Commonwealth Savings Bank..	..	..	..	..	5,507,766
State Savings Bank	..	..	..	..	53,509,234
State Penny Bank Department	..	..	..	..	119,813
Total	..	..	..	..	<u>150,319,614</u>

PART VIII.—SOCIAL CONDITION.

RETURN OF THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, AND SALARIES AND WAGES PAID BY THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS IN VICTORIA, MUNICIPALITIES, AND CERTAIN CORPORATE BODIES AND INSTITUTIONS.

	Year.	Number of Persons Employed.			Salaries and Wages Paid.
		Permanent.	Temporary or Part Time.	Total.	
					£
State Government—					
Public Service	1924	4,410	1,915	6,325	1,671,977
Police .. ..	..	1,810	..	1,810	485,247
Teachers	1923	7,198	376	7,574	1,502,049
Teachers in Technical Schools .. ..	..	420	322	742	185,500
Railways	1924-25	18,798	10,354	29,152	6,969,519
Federal Government (employees in Victoria) ..	..	7,175	5,530	12,705	2,552,210
Municipalities .. ..	..	6,787	5,494	12,281	2,004,795
Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board ..	..	5,868	6	5,874	1,519,660
State Electricity Commission ..	..	512	2,677	3,189	716,755
Metropolitan Gas Company ..	..	2,083	..	2,083	572,245
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works ..	..	2,059	..	2,059	515,989
State Savings Bank .. ..	..	1,106	..	1,106	346,742
Melbourne Harbour Trust ..	..	911	82	993	246,014
Geelong Harbour Trust ..	..	120	3	123	32,739
Melbourne Electric Supply ..	..	855	..	855	223,167
Melbourne Electric Supply, Geelong .. ..	..	213	..	213	53,359
Forests Commission .. ..	..	163	1,237	1,400	154,732
Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board .. ..	..	420	172	592	116,151
*Other bodies and Institutions .. ..	..	1,139	825	1,964	408,559
Total† .. ..	..	62,047	28,993	91,040	20,277,409

* Comprising:—Ballarat Water Commission, Geelong Water Works, Ballarat Sewerage Authority, Bendigo Sewerage Authority, Ballarat Electric Supply, Bendigo Electric Supply, Geelong Electric Tramways, Country Fire Brigades Board, Melbourne University, Country Roads Board, Royal Mint, and Commonwealth Bank (Victorian Staff).

† Exclusive of State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, which did not supply the information. The Commission had 418 permanent employees at 30th June, 1925.

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